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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The English Press.

An Address to the Earl of Liverpool, on the Degraded State of the Government Press, and its Supporters. London, 1822, pp. 88.

(From the Seventy-Second, or last No. of the Edinburgh Review, just received.)

Several years have now elapsed since we had occasion to direct the reader's attention to the important subject of the Liberty of the Press. To a period of excessive restraint, almost approaching to persecution, succeeded a season of total indifference on the part of the Government and its Law-officers, hardly to be accounted for upon any supposition consistent with the belief that their duty was faithfully and resolutely performed. Recent occurrences seem to indicate a disposition to revive the former severity, but in quarters deserving the most vigilant and jealous superintendence. We therefore deem it necessary to revive those discussions for which, till lately, there had seemed but little need; and we shall begin with tracing the conduct of the Government in relation to the press historically, as far back as the clear understanding of the question requires.

After the violence of the times of terror had subsided, and Mr. Pitt found it no longer safe to rule by legal persecution, he seems to have laid his account with a somewhat freer vent being given to public opinion. He had stifled the expression of men's sentiments upon the justice and necessity of his war; but he could not so easily force them to regard it as triumphant; and, during his last administration, he was at the head of so crazy a system, both foreign and domestic, that a high tone of any kind would only have exposed himself to ridicule, which was probably still less to his taste, than the pity he excited among his well-wishers. The administration which succeeded him was, from principle, wholly averse to prosecutions for political offences. While those steady and enlightened friends to rational liberty, Sir A. Pigott and Sir S. Romilly, directed the Law department of the Crown, and Lord Erskine held the Great Seal, no advocate of a free press could feel the least apprehension, how strong soever might be the Government with which they were connected. If, indeed, they had been disposed to curb the licentiousness of the newspapers, and to retaliate upon their adversaries, what bounds could have been set to their powers of vengeance? The Opposition, with whom they had to contend, scarcely deserved the name of a party; they hardly ventured to show themselves in divisions in Parliament for fear of betraying their insignificance. When they did hazard a division, it was with the view of wearing out the physical strength of their opponents, by vexatiously dividing twenty times in a night, as in the memorable instance of their thus combating Mr. Fox, then known to be attacked with a mortal sickness. But, even had they been more numerous and powerful,—from them, of all men, no resistance could have been apprehended to any measures directed against the press, as they were far more likely to complain of its freedom, than to protect its rights. Nevertheless, the Ministers persisted in their own wise and liberal policy; and during the fourteen months that they remained in office, only one *ex officio* information for a libel was filed. The nature of the publication was such as left no choice to the Attorney-General; it was a statement in a newspaper, charging

the Admiralty with sending troops to sea in vessels so little seaworthy, that they must go to the bottom; a statement, therefore, obviously calculated, and possibly intended, to excite a mutiny among the troops. We need hardly add, that the falsehood of the tale was a glaring as its malignity was detestable.

Early in the following year, Mr. Perceval, and the other remains of the Pitt party, took advantage of the attempts made by their adversaries to carry almost the only important measure in which Mr. Pitt and themselves had agreed, and raised against them the cry of No Popery, which in Mr. Perceval, may have been sincere, but in most of the others was a barefaced hypocrisy; so barefaced, indeed, that they have since carried the very measure themselves which they cried out against in 1807, as subversive of the Church Establishment; and some of them are now strenuous advocates for the policy in its fullest extent. The spirit of Mr. Perceval was bitter, as his mind was narrow; he judged like a bigot, and he felt like one; his Attorney-General, too, was a man as virulent in his disposition, and as contracted in his views. He filed his informations, therefore, by the score; he had every newspaper, not devoted to the Treasury, under prosecution at once; and though he did not bring many of his cases to trial, he harassed his victims by anxiety and delay; he exhausted them by costs. His caprice was equal to his severity; he would prosecute the man who copied a passage, and let the original publisher go free; or he would prosecute both together, but bring the copyist to trial first, and being discomfited, let the author go free; or he would first try the copyist, and though defeated by his acquittal, afterwards try the original publisher in some other county; and he seemed, as by a general rule, to prefer punishing the printer or vender, a tradesman probably ignorant of what he was disseminating, rather than the writer or partisan, who, if there was any guilt, could not possibly be innocent. But, among the instances of his caprice, we certainly cannot reckon as one, the manner in which he dealt with the only *ex officio* information left him by his upright and independent predecessor. The atrocious nature of that libel has been stated; a scandalously false charge of an offence amounting to murder, and with the tendency, if not the design, of making the soldiery mutiny, was under prosecution, and Sir Vicary Gibbs abandoned the prosecution at once! He who, in all other cases, refused to enter his *nolle prosequi*, and would only listen to contrition when evidenced by a plea of guilty, suddenly let this chosen libeller go free, without any terms;—he who prosecuted, and did his best to commit one editor for copying from another a few lines expressive of the hopes this country might indulge of a happy reign under his present Majesty, then only heir-apparent, and who never, in any instance, would listen to the offer of surrendering an author, unless the publisher first suffered himself to be convicted—let the worst libel that had in his time been published escape all inquiry, upon a simple statement that the writer was abroad, and instantly, and without any terms at all, entered a *nolle prosequi* of his predecessor's information! No caprice will account for this; but there can be no difficulty in explaining it, when we add, that the libel was directed against those who had turned Sir Vicary and his friends out of their places, and that it was published in the newspaper devoted to his party.

The ill success which attended such glaring violence and injustice, appears to have influenced the conduct of those who

succeeded Mr. Perceval and his Attorney. Upon the death of the former, and the removal of the latter to the Bench, a milder and a fairer system was for some time pursued. But the Law-officers appeared soon to run into the opposite extreme; and in the discussions which took place after the Manchester Outrage, there were produced the most glaring cases of periodical works, in which rebellion, mutiny, and assassination, were openly recommended, in the plainest language, and in the most minute detail, having been suffered, for many months, to pass wholly unnoticed by the Government, while every one else was daily sickened at the audacity and activity of their authors. It was strongly suspected, from circumstances which afterwards came to light, that some of the Government spies were connected with the worst of the publications in question; and certain it is, that a ministry which had, to say the very least, by culpable negligence, allowed so great a scandal to attack upon the press, came forward with a bad grace to profit by their own wrong, and demand new laws for checking what the old, if faithfully executed, would have sufficed to prevent. The disgust excited by such abuses of the press as they had thus permitted, if not encouraged, enabled them to carry a portion at least of their measures against its legitimate use; and we believe it may very safely be asserted, that, since that period, less occasion has existed than at any former time for complaining of the powers intrusted to government as insufficient to cope with the licentiousness of public discussion. There seems to have been no peculiar indisposition, on the part of the Ministers and their Law-officers, to exercise those powers. Informations were, from time to time, filed against the publishers of seditious and blasphemous libels; convictions were had, we believe, in every instance; and no complaints were made of prosecutions once begun being dropt, or kept suspended over the heads of obnoxious persons. If the power of proceeding without the intervention of a Grand Jury was exercised somewhat more temperately than in the times of Mr. Pitt and Mr. Perceval, it must be remembered that the former lived in a season of alarm and violence, when strong measures were in vogue, and powerful men could venture upon them, backed by the voice of a people frightened and enraged; and that the latter, with his Attorney General, had greatly exceeded the bounds of moderation, and turned men's minds against their persecuting schemes. A repetition of such attempts, in the present day, would only have aggravated the mischief complained of, and involved him who hazarded them in endless difficulties. Nothing but the most perverse blindness to the state of things around them could have made any class of persons complain that the present ministers were slow to follow in the footsteps of Sir Vicary Gibbs—or that he himself would have persisted in his former course, had he continued in office at the present day.

During the truly disgraceful proceedings however, against the late Queen, an alarm appears to have been excited, as is usual, by a few interested persons among a larger number weak and well meaning people, that the Government were too supine in checking the vehement expression of public feeling which their own conduct had most justly and universally produced. The utmost indignation had been every where excited, by the shameful spectacle displayed to the country, of a few men in possession of power, determined to plunge the nation into every disastrous risk, rather than hazard the loss of their places, by thwarting personal feelings, which they were known highly to disapprove, and by adhering to a course of policy, admitted on all hands to be not more essential to the tranquillity of the State, than it was prescribed by every principle of justice. Men who will embark in such a sea of troubles, for the sake of advantage to themselves, must lay their account with being buffeted somewhat rudely; and not complain of the surge that dashes over them, or the wind that visits them roughly, when they have risked the voyage with their eyes open to the storm that raged when they fared forth. The ministers seem to have felt this themselves; and much illegal violence was undoubtedly admitted to under such an impression, and in the belief that it was vain to contend with the angry elements whose fury they had

courted. The discomfiture of the enterprise had at length appeased the tempest, and left the adventurers crippled, indeed for ever, but able to keep the sea. The whole of that violence so loudly complained of by others, subsided almost immediately, and the only intemperance now remaining, was that which the bitterness of defeat and disgrace nourished among the adherents of the Government.

Two events now happened, of a very extraordinary nature, and with a singular coincidence in point of time. The agents of Ministers, their warmest supporters both in Church and State, openly established and patronised a system of personal slander, by means of the periodical press, which they made the vehicle of private defamation and obscene ribaldry, in a degree wholly unmatched by the utmost licentiousness of the most impure times; while men of a more reputable description associated themselves for the avowed purpose of prosecuting whatever they might deem libels against the Government,—that is to say, political writings in support of doctrines and measures displeasing to the existing Ministry. With the former of those events we have nothing to do upon the present occasion, further than to remark, that the friends of the 'Constitutional Association,' generally known by the popular name of the *Bridge-street Gang*, have not only upon no occasion evinced the slightest disposition to put the law in force against the most scandalous violators of it on the side of the Ministers, but that many of its supporters, and especially among the clergy of the Established Church, are known to be, by their patronage at least, the encouragers of the slanderous portion of the Press. Our present object, however, is shortly to call the reader's attention to the nature of this new Society: not that much is now to be dreaded from its effects, but because its proceedings form a curious portion of the history of the Press, and their exposure may tend to check any future attacks upon its freedom.

It appears, that while considerable irritation still existed in the public mind, from the odious and disgusting measure to which we have alluded, a few designing men conceived the plan of turning this to their own profit, by sounding the alarm, and inducing persons of wealth and consequence to unite in forming a Society for curbing what they were pleased to call the Licentiousness of the Press. Some of the founders were probably actuated by no worse views, than the desire of pushing themselves into notice, and obtaining favour with the Government, which they might afterwards use for their advancement; but others appear plainly to have been actuated with the spirit of ordinary gain, by making a pecuniary profit of the concern. Many well meaning individuals of all ranks, and of both sexes, contributed considerable sums of money, which, it is supposed, have almost all been expended in law proceedings; and after a year and a half's work, they have convicted a friction-cutler at Manchester of selling an Address to the Reformers; one wretched old man of seventy, whom they were fain to allow to plead guilty, upon an engagement never to bring him up for judgment; and a lad or two whom they had detected selling in a shop things, the nature of which they were utterly incapable of understanding.

In considering the tendency of such an Association, the first thing that strikes us is the power of oppression with which it is calculated to arm individuals. A fund to be employed in prosecuting the writers or the publishers of obnoxious works, means neither more nor less than a fund to enable a few hungry attorneys to ruin a number of persons not supported by such resources. Suppose a man is unjustly charged with publishing any given work, admitting it to be libellous; the grand jury must find the bill, if there is only *prima facie* evidence of the publication; and the clearest acquittal before a petty jury leaves the party burthened with his whole costs. A libel may have been purchased in the shop of one at a great distance, confined by illness, or in prison, who never was near the premises from the day the work was printed, and could not possibly have known of its existence. Though certainly the anomalous doctrine of the law of libel recognises a general responsibility for the criminal acts of servants, yet, in such cases, persons have

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been generally acquitted from the peculiarity of their situation; but, in all of them, a grand jury must at once have found the bills, the defence not being disclosed before the trial; and in all of them, the persons acquitted must therefore have been punished by severe fine in the shape of their costs, increased at the option of the Society, if they chose to remove the proceedings by *certiorari*, without rendering themselves liable to pay the defendants any costs. Again—a single passage may be culled out of a work perfectly innocent, when the whole is taken together; or, a passage which, standing alone, may wear a libellous aspect, but, read as part of a treatise, could never be made the ground of a conviction. Here, too, any grand jury would probably find the bill as a matter of course; and the acquittal, at the trial, will be just as certain; but not more certain than the heavy expense of the proceedings to the party accused. Nay, an informer has only to purchase any old book with a libellous passage in it, Colonel Titus's famous tract, for instance, or any of the Jacobite works, and we will venture to assert, that any bookseller in the kingdom may be saddled with the expenses of a prosecution; for the grand jury only reads the passage set forth in the indictment, and may very easily find the bill, without asking to see the whole of the book.

But, independently of such cases as we have now put, it never can be a matter of great difficulty to get the grand jury to find a bill. They hear only one side; they are not obliged to be unanimous; and consequently they soon come to a vote, in which a bare majority of twenty-three persons decides; and they are aware that the subject, if they find the bill, must undergo a full investigation before the Court. This remark applies to all prosecutions; but the nature of the offence in question, and the vagueness of the law which takes cognizance of it, renders an indiscriminate zeal in prosecuting it peculiarly objectionable. The political prejudices, too, prevailing in some parts of the country are known to be stronger than in others. Bills may be preferred there which grand juries elsewhere have flung out, provided the circulation of any obnoxious publication has been pretty general, and a conviction secured, which will operate to terrify all persons selling the same works, and to bring them within the power of this junto, or their mercenary agents.

The prospect of conviction in cases of libel generally, is next to be considered. We fear the nature of our libel law is such as to render this, in any case, highly probable. No man can tell what is, or what is not a libel. The definition given of the offence by Mr. Bentham is hardly an exaggeration—'Any thing which any body at any time may be pleased to dislike, for any reason.' All men are agreed in holding, at least they have come to a determination to say so, that free remarks on public measures shall be allowed; but then they add a proviso, that the bounds of fair and temperate discussion shall not be passed. The question, then, always is, how far temperance has been exceeded; for as to fairness, no man ever doubted that perfect fairness is inconsistent with the conduct of any controversy; and, if exacted, would convert every discussion into a mere dry and naked summing up, with far less learning towards either side than most judges show in their observations. What, then, is this temperance? Dr. Johnson once said, speaking of wine, that he knew what indulgence was, and he knew what abstinence was, but temperance he could not understand. In each case the feelings of the jury, influenced by those of the judge, must ascertain the meaning of the term; and it cannot be denied, that men are apt, both as judges and jurors, when coolly decided in a court of justice, to take offence at expressions, which, as ordinary readers, they never would have blamed. The judge comments upon the vehement words; and the jury, recollecting the oath they are acting under—bewildered by the vagueness of the law—not permitted to seek for all the light which might be derived from investigating the truth or falsehood of the matter before them—not called upon to mete out the punishment, and consequently avoiding all inquiry into the degree in which the

bounds of lawful animation may have been transgressed by the writer, naturally enough seek for refuge in the opinion delivered to them, and hand over all further difficulties to the court by whom the sentence is to be pronounced. It has thus become a much more important question, whether any given publication shall be prosecuted or not, than whether it is libellous or not; and we will venture to say, that an indiscriminate, or even a very free use of the powers of prosecution, would speedily produce one of two consequences; either all political discussion would be put down, or all libellers would be acquitted as a matter of course, and the law of libel would cease to exist.

That law has only in practice been made tolerable, and its co-existence with a free press possible, by the restrictions which public opinion has imposed upon the power of the Crown to prosecute by information. Hitherto, the commencement of such proceedings for political offences, has almost always been left to the Attorney-general; and he is individually responsible to Parliament, to the profession, and to the country for his exercise of so delicate a trust. But an Association to prosecute for libel has no individual responsibility at all. The members have the whole powers of the law in their hands, and stand in the situation of the Attorney-general without his responsibility; for we have already shown, that the necessity of having the bills found by a Grand Jury, in practice, can very inadequately check their proceedings. They may be defeated again and again, and still return to the charge, until they exhaust their victim by costs or harass him to death by anxiety. They have a common fund which bears all the expense; and, appearing before the world as a body of some hundreds, or even thousands, all influence of public opinion under their conduct is out of the question. In fact, the influence and the purse of the whole subscribers become the engines of oppression, in the hands of a few obscure, and it may be corrupt individuals, who are thus armed to practise extortion, or to gratify private malice, or to indulge their party spleen by the ruin of political adversaries; or, at the very best, to follow their own gain by making themselves busy in tormenting their neighbours.

There are reasons of state, too, which render such a power wholly unfit to be intrusted in any hands but those of the Government. Cases may easily be figured, many indeed have occurred, and some very recently, in which the public good requires unquestionable libels to be passed over, rather than that the subjects of them should be drawn into discussion in courts of justice. A power of stopping any prosecution is, indeed, vested in the Crown; but the exercise of that power in the particular instances, might be productive of the very mischiefs apprehended, and bring the conduct of Government into question. The case of the late Queen, and many attacks upon foreign powers through the press, are instances which must occur to every reader in illustration of this remark.

It may be asked, then, whether we deem the power of filing *ex officio* informations in cases of libel better than the proceeding by indictment before a Grand Jury? We answer, that any argument against the Association is grounded upon no such opinion; and its adoption warrants no inference of the sort. The ordinary mode of prosecuting by preferring a bill, requires some individual to come forward and avow himself to the world as the prosecutor. An attorney may, indeed, prepare, and prefer the bill, or the grand jury may know no more of it than the name of the witness to prove the publication; but, substantially, the person becomes known, whose zeal for the public weal has thus impelled him to stand forth as an accuser, without having any private interest in the case; and there is little fear that either the inclination or the funds will, in many cases, be found to repeat the experiment. If, indeed, many persons were to take this office upon themselves, without disclosing more than the names of their law-agents, many of the objections urged against the Association would become applicable to them. To charge the adversaries of *ex officio* informations with inconsistency, because they would rather have a known and responsible prosecu-

tor, although armed with the power of proceeding independently of a grand jury, than an unknown, irresponsible body provided with a large fund, and employing a set of agents to drive a trade in litigation, is extremely thoughtless, not to say unfair. No man in his senses ever maintained, that if the power of proceeding *ex officio* were taken away, the law officers of the Crown were no longer to be the public prosecutors for State offences. Let them do in cases of libel and sedition, as they have hitherto done in cases of high treason, was the argument constantly used; and it precluded all idea of leaving to individuals the task of deciding what libel should be prosecuted, and what overlooked.

But it is none of the least mischiefs of such a plan, that it enables a crafty government and its law officers to unite all the advantages of the *ex officio* power, with a perfect freedom from responsibility and control. The Attorney-General may personally dread a contest with the press; the Ministers may dislike the odium of such a warfare, or shrink from the risks to which retaliation would expose them. But let them privately encourage the Association, and withhold their names; they have the means of prosecuting all classes in which they dislike to appear, and they reserve the exercise of the *ex officio* power for those which are safe, if not popular. A system of hostility may thus be pursued against the Press, with the certainty of greatly curbing its power, and the chance of entirely subduing it, while the individuals in place are either wholly screened from public indignation, or sheltered by dividing their responsibility with a whole body of men and women, some of whom are well known to be innocent of all meaning, and others to be rather over zealous than corrupt in their designs.

We have stated some of the evil effects produced by such a combination as the Bridge Street Society upon the liberty of the press, and the rights of a large and important class of the community, and the persons engaged in printing and publishing, whom it places at the mercy of a few needy attorneys and mercenary informers. Its tendency to interfere with the pure administration of justice, is equally deserving of attention. The design of the Society obviously was, to establish a correspondence all over the country, and have members and subscribers in every quarter. Their names were ostentatiously published from time to time, both in pamphlets, and in the London and provincial newspapers. And alarm was industriously excited among the friends of good order, and, above all, among persons of strong religious feelings, who were desired to look at the blasphemous tracts so long permitted by the Government to pass unnoticed. The plan was clearly to embody all friends of the establishment in Church and State, by which is always meant the High Church and Tory party; and to unite them in a league against whatever publication attacked the political measures of the existing Administration, or exposed the corruptions of the Government; for it was distinctly avowed at an early period of the scheme, that no irreligious or immoral works were to be prosecuted, these being left under the superintending care of the Society for the suppression of Vice. Some excellent persons who disapproved wholly of a system of political prosecution, were drawn into the Association, by their disgust at the blasphemy which seemed to be permitted by not having been persecuted; and no sooner had they given their names and money, than they found that they had been enabling the Society's agents to carve out political work for themselves. But in those ways persons of local influence in various parts of the kingdom were enrolled, and every one in their neighbourhood, and all under their power, were apprized of it. There needs no argument to show how such a proceeding must operate upon the trial of political offences. The jury, who are to decide, know that the real prosecutors are the persons of most weight in their county or parish. The tenant is aware that his landlord is in fact the party who brings the case before him. Can any thing like a fair trial be expected in such circumstances?

Nor is this all. The combination will not be confined to one side. If the Bridge Street Society only prosecute libels against

the existing Ministry, another association must soon be formed to prosecute libels against the Opposition; or, without any design of prosecuting, the friends of liberty will unite in self-defence, and for the protection of the poor individuals who are the objects of oppression. We shall thus have two rival Societies, embodying in every district, the persons of most weight and power. The community will be split into two classes, marshalled by political, it may be, by religious zeal;—and between the fierce passions of the contending sects, the very name of Justice must soon be forgotten, in a country where the law is administered by Juries. The contempt into which the Association very speedily fell, has alone prevented these consequences from ensuing. Should it regain any portion of respect, or should any other establishment be formed upon similar principles, nothing can save us from such a result.

It should not be forgotten, that among its members, the Bridge Street Society reckoned about forty Bishops and Peers of Parliament. But can any thing be more alarming, than that men who know they are the Judges in the last resort of all causes, should become systematically the prosecutors of political offences? It would not be very fitting, in our humble opinion, for a large number of Peers to join in prosecuting a common felony; yet here there is hardly a chance of the question being carried before the House of Lords; and, if it were, the question could only be of error upon the record. But, in every case of libel, the House of Lords may be called upon to decide the whole question; for the libellous nature of the publication is always a question arising upon the record, and may, in each case, be submitted to that House by writ of error;—a state of things in which one-half the Peers should have disqualified themselves as judges by becoming prosecutors, and the other half by subscribing for the defence, was that for which the Society, and especially those Noble and Right Reverend contributors to whom we have alluded, were preparing this country, hitherto so famed for purity in the administration of criminal justice.

The state of insignificance into which the Bridge Street Body has fallen, partly through the conduct of its agents, and partly from the declared opinion of the Public, renders any more particular reference to its proceedings unnecessary. While it continued in activity, there was nothing absurd or reprehensible which it did not seem ready to attempt. Its Committee presumptuously issued a circular letter to every Justice of the Peace in England, containing a lecture upon the Law of Libel, and desiring certain warnings to be made public in each district, with the view (said these wise superintendents of the whole magistracy) of using this notice in aggravation of punishment, when any offender should be convicted and brought up for judgement! In the same precious document, they boast that they have, under threat of prosecution, obtained from different booksellers engagements to suspend the sale of certain works, and a surrender, upon oath, of their stock in that trade; and they point out, by an opprobrious designation, one individual actually under prosecution at the moment by themselves, the circular being sent into the part of the country where he was to be tried, and among the persons who were to serve on his jury! This last feat was made the subject of just and severe reprehension by the Court of King's Bench, when that individual was afterwards brought up for judgement. Perhaps it is to such manifest blunders in the conduct of the speculation that we are to ascribe its failure. When it was undertaken, there certainly was a sufficient portion of party violence among a certain class of politicians to support such a scheme, and to alarm all well-wishers to the Constitution for the consequences. We entertain little apprehension of seeing the attempt very soon renewed; but it seemed good to record the facts, and to state the reasons which should deter honest men and lovers of their country from favouring a design of this description, whatever may be their political opinions; and put the unwary upon their guard against the artifices of those who, through false alarm, would make them a prey.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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School of Arts.

THE SCOTSMAN, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1823.

We cannot give a stronger proof of the interest which we take in the School of Arts, than by inserting a report at length of the proceedings that took place at the General Meeting of Contributors on Tuesday last; and that interest has been felt all along, from a conviction that this School is calculated, in a variety of ways, to promote the good of society. We saw, from the beginning, that it would go directly to raise the character, and increase the usefulness of the mechanics and handicrafts of Edinburgh; and, by making them conscious of this, to withdraw them from low or vicious pursuits—to render them more unwilling to engage in any bad or hazardous enterprises. These are effects which could benefit no desperate political party, while they must necessarily gratify every one who desires the good of society. The Tories of Edinburgh are too sharp sighted to be misled by any weakly courteous or simulatory expressions or declarations coming from their opponents but they too, saw clearly that, while they would gain in character, they could lose nothing politically by supporting this School of Science. We give many of them credit, indeed, for joining the scheme solely because it promised to be useful. But in no respect, certainly, was it likely to be more useful, than by, affording an opportunity for men of all parties—men too often incensed against each other on account of political struggles and differences—to meet together, and unite cordially in prosecuting a common object, which should, at the same time secure to them all the respect and better affections of other classes in society. This would have been felt as a great blessing in a place where society had been so divided and exasperated; and, for healing purposes, it was impossible to put the institution into better hands than those of Mr. Horner. Bland in his manners, tolerant in his spirit, and honourable in his principles, no guarantee could have been stronger, that no partiality of feeling, no bias from politics, would be yielded to. And we say decidedly that there was no such yielding—that the thanks of the meeting, voted to him unanimously, shews that his political opponents were of our opinion. What then shall we think of Dr. Brewster? That he has been scattering brands, where he should have planted the olive is manifest; and that he has done this for reasons which we shall not name at the risk,—may we not say, with the hope,—of breaking up one of the most useful schemes ever set on foot in Edinburgh, and in which the interests and respectability of hundreds of his townsmen are concerned, is, to our minds, equally obvious? Had his influence in society, indeed, been at all commensurate with his reputation in science, we have not the least doubt that this baneful consequence would have been effected; but in spite of all this, let us only say, *misdirected and misleading exertions*, for on the facts disclosed at the meeting we must hold that he misled the half-dozen of gentlemen who voted in support of his views the School of Arts will go on, we trust, prospering and to prosper. There is, we think a returning good sense in Edinburgh, which is destined to return her citizens in, at least the common bonds of fellowship, and which will induce them to cling to all such institutions or charities as admit of their uniting in common and laudable pursuits.

A very numerous meeting of the subscribers to this most excellent Institution, of the success of which we have, on former occasions, given an account to our readers, was held in the Waterloo Tavern on Tuesday. We should imagine there were nearly three hundred persons present.

The SECRETARY stated, that the Lord Provost had expressed his regret that he could not attend to take the chair at this meeting, and that Alexander Henderson, Esq. the acting Chief Magistrate, had kindly attended in his place.

Mr. Henderson was then unanimously called to the chair.

Mr. HORNER, the Secretary, stated, that the report of the Directors, circulated last June, had informed the subscribers of the whole proceedings of the School of Arts up to that period; that since that time the drawing classes had been going on, for the purpose of giving such instruction to the mechanics as should enable them to make a plan or drawing of any work in which they may be engaged. He then exhibited to the meeting several drawings of the pupils, which did great credit to them, and to their instructor, Mr. Dick, of whose services in the School of Arts Mr. Horner spoke in high commendation.

Mr. HORNER, then laid before the meeting a plan for the future regulation of the School of Arts, which he said had been drawn up with the advice of those who had hitherto taken the most active share in its management, and of other gentlemen whose opinions were deserving of great weight. Having read this plan, Mr. HORNER stated that he would then have finished what he had to say, but for a printed circular he had received that morning, and copies of which he perceived had been laid on the table of the meeting, entitled, "Edinburgh School of Arts, under the direction and patronage of the Society of Arts for Scotland," signed John Robison, secretary, and announcing, Lectures by Dr. Fyfe on the Chemical Arts, to commence on Tuesday the 15th October, at half past eight o'clock in the evening. This circular had been sent round

without any communication with himself or any of the other Directors of the School of Arts, and there were circumstances in it which appeared very strange to him, and required explanation. It was to be observed that the circular is dated 30th August. Now he had received a letter from Dr. Fyfe, dated the evening of the 31st, transmitting a copy of one he had received from Mr. Robison, asking him to agree to give a Course of Lectures in the Edinburgh School of Arts, about to be established by the society of Arts; and Dr. Fyfe added, that he did not mean to return any answer until he had seen Mr. Horner. He accordingly called on Dr. Fyfe next morning, and asked him what answer he meant to give to Mr. Robison's letter, to which he replied, that Dr. Brewster had asked him some days before to lecture for the Society of Arts, and he told him that he would be happy to do so, provided it did not interfere in any respect with the engagement he had entered into with the Directors of the School of Arts for next winter. He was very much surprised, therefore, to find, in the printed circular, the very day and hour fixed on which it was intended Dr. Fyfe should lecture at the School of Arts; and he had waited on Dr. Fyfe that morning for an explanation, and he was authorised by him to state to the meeting, that he had given no authority whatsoever for the announcement in the circular. The next part of the circular to which he would advert was, that relating to the sale of tickets at Mr. Marshall's shop; Mr. Marshall had given no authority, and had only yesterday morning got a note from Mr. Howden, saying, that Dr. Brewster had requested him to give his permission to allow Subscriptions for the School of Arts to be received at his shop, which, imagining it to be the same of which he was a Director, as Deacon of the Goldsmiths, he readily assented to. The whole of this circular letter was so extraordinary that he hoped some one present would be able to give some explanation of it.

Mr. JOHN SHANK MORE, advocate, then rose and said, that he was not able to give any explanation of the printed circular to which Mr. Horner alluded, as he knew nothing farther about it than as having received a copy of it that morning: that he was induced to address the meeting as an independent member of the Institution, to which he had been an early subscriber, from the conviction of its utility. He was highly gratified with the success which had attended the experiment, and in what he had to propose he was actuated solely by a desire to promote its objects more extensively; that he had never contemplated the permanency of this Institution, and merely calculated upon giving a donation at its establishment as a temporary experiment, for a proposal had been made two or three years ago by Dr. Brewster for the Establishment of a "Society of Arts" in Scotland, notice of which had also been given in the journal conducted by Dr. Brewster and that, looking to the formation of that Society, he considered the School of Arts as a temporary institution, destined to merge in that Society, should it, as was anticipated, be successfully carried forward; that the Society of Arts was now established, and contained within it the greater part of the rank, science, and opulence of Scotland, and that such being the facts, he thought the smaller society would derive the greatest benefit from an union with the larger, and in being taken under its wings and patronage; that in this opinion he was actuated by the sincerest good will to the School of Arts, and desire to extend its usefulness that he acted solely from himself, without connection or concert with any other individual, and was not even aware that any one present would second the motion with which he meant to conclude; that he was surprised when an application was made to him for a subscription to continue the institution, for he had advanced his money as a donation for a temporary object. Mr. Moore then referred to some document connected with the School of Arts and read part of a private letter from Mr. L. Horner to Dr. Brewster, relating to the subscription.

JAMES GIBSON, Esq. begged pardon for interrupting Mr. Moore but he requested him to explain to the Meeting, how it happened, if the Learned Gentleman acted so entirely from himself as he had represented, that he should have become so intimately acquainted with many circumstances relating to the School of Arts, and particularly with a private letter addressed by Mr. Horner to Dr. Brewster. Mr. MORE replied, that he meant merely that he was unconnected with any one in the motion he had proposed, and did not mean to say that he had not conversed with Dr. Brewster, and received information from him on the subject: That he regretted Dr. Brewster's absence, which he believed to be owing to Dr. B. having gone to the country. (Here Mr. Henry Cockburn, who was sitting next to Mr. More, remarked, that he had seen Dr. Brewster in the street ten minutes before the hour of meeting) (*cheers and a laugh.*) Mr. More proceeded to state, as an additional reason for the union he proposed, that he saw the Directors of the School of Arts were nominated to a similar station in the Society of Arts, and thus the institution would continue under the same management as before: That there was not room for too institutions of this kind; and he had moreover been told that dissensions had crept in among those who had the management of the School of Arts, which must materially interfere with its successful progress. He concluded by moving, that as the Society of Arts has now been established, it is expedient that the School of Arts should be placed under its direction.

Mr. HORNER apologised for again obtruding himself upon the Meeting; but from what had fallen from Mr. More, it was necessary for him in justice to the Directors, with whom he had, acted and to himself, to state some facts, which it was proper the subscribers should now be made acquainted with. With regard to the School of Arts having been a part of the original design of the Society of Arts he must say, that whatever may have been in the minds of those with whom that new Society originated, or rather in the mind of Dr. Brewster, for it is he who has set up this claim of originality of invention, he had never heard that it was any part of the plan of that Society to give instruction to mechanics but that it was intended to be on the plan of the Society in the Adelphi in London, for the encouragement of Arts and manufactures. Mr. Horner then read the minutes of the first meeting when the School of Arts was established, in April 1821, at which Dr. B. was present, where there is not the most remote allusion to the School of Arts; and he stated, that in the prospectus laid before the public, which was drawn up with the assistance of Dr. B. as stated in the minutes of the next meeting, when he was also present, not a word is said about the Society of Arts. That Dr. Brewster had moreover asked him to be Secretary of this new Society, which he declined and stated as his reason, that being already Secretary of the School of Arts it was full occupation for all the leisure he could bestow on such objects; and that, in consequence of his refusal, Mr. Robison and Mr. Wright were applied to by Dr. Brewster: That this claim had never been heard of till within the last three months, and the other Directors present would correct him if he was wrong in stating, that no allusion had ever been made to it on any one occasion before that period. With regard to the dissensions to which Mr. More had referred, he thought that that was a subject which ought not to have been brought forward there; that they had only to attend to the great interests of the institution they were associated to establish, but that there was no course left now for him but to state the whole truth. He was sorry to say, that very soon after the successful commencement of the School of Arts, Dr. Brewster showed an uneasiness that it was occupying so much of the public attention, as he imagined it would materially interfere with the new Society he was about to establish, and indeed avowed that it would draw away subscriptions from it. From that time he shewed great coldness and indifference to the School of Arts, never attending any of the lectures, except one in November, nor from that time taking any concern whatsoever in the management, or promoting any one of its objects, and never attended one meeting of the Directors from the 27th November to this day, although regularly summoned to all. That this coldness was turned afterwards to repeated attempts to interfere with and embarrass the proceedings of the other Directors. He made a great effort to prevent the establishment of the class for Mechanical Drawing, although, in the printed prospectus, drawn up with his assistance, it was stated that drawing was a most important object, and would be adopted as soon as the funds would allow it. His next overt act of hostility was in relation to Mr. Galbraith, who lectured last winter in the School of Arts on mechanics. That gentleman, although he believed him to be a person of most respectable attainments in science, had not succeeded in making his subject sufficiently intelligible to his audience, and was far from popular with the students, although he had bestowed great pains in the performance of his task. The Directors, upon the most abundant evidence, and with the knowledge that upon the only occasion that Dr. Brewster attended the School of Arts at a lecture of Mr. Galbraith's he expressed himself in the strongest terms of disapprobation, thought it for the interest of the Institution not to apply to him again, their engagement with their lecturers not extending beyond a single course. Yet Dr. Brewster, without hearing a word of the evidence on which they proceeded, sent, to the Directors a formal protest against what he termed the dismissal of Mr. Galbraith, and led that gentleman to make the most unfounded accusations against the Directors and himself individually. The Directors appointed Mr. Alexander Galloway his successor, being the gentleman whom Dr. Brewster had originally pointed out as the fittest person to lecture in the School of Arts, but who could not accept the first application from some engagements at the time. But no sooner was the appointment of Mr. Galloway settled, and the lectures ready to be announced, than Dr. Brewster called upon Mr. Galloway, and made such representations to him as induced that gentleman to break off from his engagement, Dr. B. having stated that there was great dissension among the Directors, that their proceedings were immediately to be brought before the public; and that the School of Arts had assumed a political character. These were Dr. Brewster's proceedings against the School. With regard to himself he had said that he (Mr. H.) had presumed to undertake the management in matters of which he was incapable to judge, and had usurped the whole power of the Directors. Now certainly a great deal of responsibility had been thrown upon him, and one of his great difficulties was to assemble a quorum of Directors. But in every public body there must always be some one to take the labouring oar, and of this he was certain, that whoever had been in his situation could not have done less than he did, or the Institution would have suffered. He thought, too,

that a person gratuitously undertaking an office for the public benefit, and one, too, of no small labour, was entitled to some indulgence for his errors, far less was it fair to impute base and unworthy motives for his conduct; yet it had been most industriously circulated, in quarters where it was hoped it would tell, that he (Mr. H.) had engaged in the School of Arts for a political purpose. At such an imputation he naturally felt indignant, and he called upon Dr. Brewster, or any one else, to state a single occurrence, from the first opening of the Institution to the present day, that would give a shadow of pretence for such a charge. That he had carefully avoided every thing that could by any view have the least semblance of politics; and one of the greatest comforts he had in the School of Arts, was the support it had met with from persons of all political opinions, and from none more than from those the most opposed to him in those sentiments. The subscribers had now the facts before them, and he left them to make their own inferences.

Mr. MORE disclaimed all knowledge of the circumstances to which Mr. Horner had alluded, with the exception of what he had mentioned in regard to Mr. Galbraith. That gentleman had called upon him, and from his statement he appeared to have been ill used; nor could he reconcile his dismissal with a passage in Mr. Horner's address to the students at the conclusion of the lectures, as published in the report of the Directors. Mr. More here read that part of the report in which Mr. Horner praises Mr. Galbraith for his zeal, and makes an apology for him to the students, from the difficulties he had to contend with. He repeated that he was actuated solely as an independent subscriber for the interest of the Institution, and did not know whether his motion would be seconded.

Mr. JOHN ROBISON said, that a letter he had laid on the table would explain the printed circular to which Mr. Horner had alluded. This letter was as follows, addressed to Mr. Horner, as Secretary of the School of Arts.

"Sir,—By order of the Society of Arts, I have the honour to inclose an extract from a minute of a meeting of this date, and to request you will have the goodness to lay it before the meeting of subscribers to the School of Arts, called for Tuesday the 3d September. I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN ROBISON.

"Royal Society's Apartments, 27th Aug. 1822."

"Extract from minutes of a meeting* of the Society of Arts, held 27th August 1822.—On considering the expediency of carrying into effect the plan of disseminating useful knowledge among the industrious classes, as held forth in the original prospectus of the Society, it was resolved to proceed to establish permanent Schools of Arts in Edinburgh and in other towns, which Schools, from the experiment tried here last winter, have been found to produce beneficial effects, and for this purpose to advertise that lectures on the proper subjects will be delivered in course of the next winter.

"The Secretary is directed to transmit a copy of the above resolution to the meeting of Subscribers to the School of Arts, called for Tuesday next.

"A true extract. JOHN ROBISON, Secretary."

The Rev. Dr. MACKNIGHT rose to Second Mr. Moore's motion. He thought it very desirable that this union should take place, as the great objects would be far better obtained by the co-operation of the larger Society. Before sitting down, he would say, that by attending occasionally at the lectures, he had had an opportunity of witnessing the zeal and the judgment with which Mr. Horner conducted the affairs of the Institution, and he would propose that a special vote of thanks should be given to Mr. Horner by this meeting.

HENRY COCKBURN Esq. stated, that it would be very convenient to get the business of the meeting put into such a shape as to enable it to be disposed of. There were no fewer than at least three motions on the table, all seconded, and all undisposed of. Mr. Horner had moved certain resolutions calculated to give a permanent constitution to the School; Dr. Macknight had moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Horner; and Mr. More had moved that the whole establishment should at once be put under the management of a separate institution, called the society of Arts. Now, it seemed to him to be proper to dispose of the last of these proposals first, because he could not anticipate any difficulty as to the rest; and, if this one were carried every thing else was virtually superseded. Before considering the propriety of acceding to Mr. More's proposal, it was necessary to observe its exact import and

*The framer of this minute has, through inadvertency, no doubt given it a wrong title. There was no meeting of the Society, not even of the Council; this is the production of a Committee, consisting of Dr. Brewster and five of his immediate friends. The printed circular begins—"At a meeting of the Committee of Management of the Society of Arts for Scotland, held on the 27th August, it was unanimously resolved," &c.

result. The School of Art had hitherto been confessedly conducted with the most perfect success. It was at first an experiment of so interesting and attractive a nature, that men of benevolence might well be excused for being sanguine about it. But it had indisputably succeeded beyond the expectation even of the most sanguine. The Society of Arts, on the other hand, was an institution which had as yet scarcely being its labours, and almost every think about it was entirely unknown to this meeting. It was no doubt generally understood to be composed of respectable and eminent persons; but still no explanation of its constitution or details had been authoritatively given to this meeting. Yet it was now proposed, without any previous intimation or inquiry, that the whole concerns of the School should at once be taken out of the hands of those who had hitherto successfully supported it, and put under the management of this strange and unknown association. The meeting might agree to this or not; but if they did, they ought fairly to do so with reference to this possible result, that the Society of Arts might suppress the present establishment the very moment that they got it into their power. Now, was this a contingency to which the meeting was prepared to make up its mind? It appeared to him, that the general principle on which every establishment of this kind ought to be regulated was, that it should depend upon the public, or rather upon that portion of the public which chose to support it by their money; and that though a subordinate management was necessary, still the institution should return periodically to the hands of the Contributors, by annual meetings and elections by them of Managers. This accordingly was the principle on which, in point of fact, almost every establishment in this and in other places was conducted. Now, what were the reasons upon which it was held that this great principle should be departed from, without any ceremony, at present? They appeared to him to be singularly frivolous. The first one was, that had it been originally held out that the School should merge in the Society of Arts. But he positively denied that any such thing had been done, or that any understanding of this kind had prevailed. Upon reading the whole of the proposals for instituting this School, which seem to have been published in three different forms, and the first report of the Directors, there is not so much as a single allusion even to the existence of such an association as the Society of Arts. Accordingly, the opposite statement rests merely upon something which Mr. More says Dr. Brewster told him, that he had told to Sir George Mackenzie. Now, if it was originally understood that this School was to form an independent institution, we had not the power of destroying it. Those who contributed funds for its support, (which one gentleman did by a present of books exceeding £. 100 in value) had a right to prevent their contributions from being taken from the persons to whose control alone they were entrusted. The next and the great ground for diverting their liberality from its intended purpose is, that there have been dissensions among the Directors of the School of Arts. In answer to this he would ask in the first place if there was no chance of any dissensions ever arising in the Society by which it was proposed that this School should be absorbed? Mr. More seemed to think that they were saved from dissensions there, because they were numerous, which was generally considered as the very reason why such disturbances arise. If this Society was so unlike every thing else in human nature that it was to have no dissensions, he would propose that not only the School of Arts but all our public, and all our domestic concerns, should at once be put under the management of this harmonious corporation. But he would venture to predict, that they would not be in operation six months before they were squabbling like any other philosophers. But, in the next place, he denied that there were any dissensions among the Directors. It was quite true, that one single individual, Dr. Brewster, had chosen to quarrel with them, and that, under his influence, other two gentlemen of great respectability had been stated to have resigned their situations. In reality, however, Dr. Brewster was the solitary dissident; so that, on the one hand, there were about a dozen of individuals who had gone on steadily, zealously, and successfully, commanding the respect of the students, and without a murmur amongst themselves; and, on the other hand, there was Dr. Brewster, who, it had been stated to-day, had not attended a single meeting or been present at a single lecture since the first two or three weeks after the institution began. This was the amount of the alleged dissension! and, fortunately, there was a circumstance which accounted for the Doctor's dissension, without at all impeaching our Managers. It was avowed, that the Doctor was at the head of the Society of Arts; it was his own child, and, in the prospectus which had been circulated about that establishment, he was expressly described by the title of its Directors. Now, being the author and the master of this establishment, it was perfectly natural for him to be ambitious of making every scientific institution in the country subordinate to it. Mr. More, to be sure, had professed that his motion was made without any concert with Dr. Brewster. It might be so; but there certainly seemed to be a remarkable sympathy between the two; for Mr. More had rested his motion on letters addressed to the Doctor, and which he must have got from him; and

all his views and remarks were, like his motion, calculated to promote the very object which that gentleman avowed he had in view. The next reason for superseding the persons who had matured the School of Arts was, that most or all of its managers were Directors of the Society; so that, after all we would be governed by the very same men. If this were true, the fair thing would be for the Society to come over to us. But it was a mere delusion. Even our existing Directors did not form any thing approaching to a majority of the Society; and, at any rate, we, the contributors to the School, had an interest and a right in the annual election of new Directors if we chose, not one of whom might hereafter belong to the Society. Lastly, it was said that the Society was a much greater and more extensive institution. No doubt it was; and for this very reason it was not so well qualified to manage the School of Arts. Its objects were higher and more universal. It had no more to do with the instruction of the mechanics of Edinburgh than with the instruction of those of Dumfries or Inverness. The very circumstance of its embracing the whole country made it unfit for the daily government of an institution purely local. He therefore trusted that the Contributors to the School of Arts would never quit the salutary hold which they had, and by the practice of the country were entitled to have over their own institution. He differed from Mr. More, who thought that there was not room for two such schools in Edinburgh. If there were not, then he could not help thinking it a most extraordinary proceeding in the Society to have circulated, as they have this day done, proposals for a School of Arts under their management; for this just implies, according to the statement, that there is not room for two; that the existing School, after being set up, is to be interfered with by one that is inconsistent with its existence. He believed, however, that there was ample room for two; and he wished success most cordially to the Society in its attempts to establish one, and in all its other objects. But still this was no reason why the proposal for superseding our contributions for ever should not at once be rejected, and the other business of the meeting proceeded with.

The motion of Mr. MORE was then put to the vote, when about ten or twelve persons stood up in favour of it, and most of them immediately left the room.

Mr. HORNER's resolutions were then put *seriatim*, and all agreed to;

The Meeting then elected Directors for the ensuing year. On Dr. Brewster's being proposed to be continued as a Director, there was a loud cry of No, no, from every part of the room.

Mr. COCKBURN stated, that he was sorry to see his friend Dr. Macknight had gone away, because that gentleman had intimated his intention of proposing a vote of thanks to the Secretary, and he most sincerely wished that this motion had been regularly made by the person by whom it was originally indicated. But since he did not appear to be now in the room, he hoped to be excused for making the motion himself; and he must distinctly state, that he did not intend this as a mere complimentary or formal proceeding; on the contrary, he intended it as a deliberate and formal expression of his decided opinion, that no officer of any such institution ever deserved the gratitude of his fellow-citizens more than Mr. Horner now did. It was perfectly well known, that the original conception of this School was his; and those who knew its affairs best would be the first to attest that it was chiefly owing to his unwearied zeal and consummate judgment that it had been matured. —Amidst the novelty of the experiment, many unexpected difficulties occurred, which it required great management and great delicacy to overcome. He had succeeded, however, in overcoming them all, quietly and perfectly; and while he had commended the confidence (with one exception) of the Directors for himself, had secured to them the affection of the students. He would probably be included in some vote of thanks which would likely be proposed to the Managers in general; but considering the opposition he had met with, from a quarter unnecessary now to be mentioned, and some remarks which had been made this day, he thought that the Meeting was bound to strengthen his hands by a special expression of its admiration of his conduct individually as their Secretary. —He would therefore beg leave to move, "That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to Leonard Horner, Esq. the Secretary, for his unremitting zeal in behalf of the School of Arts, and the success with which he has assisted in conducting an institution which promises to be of lasting benefit to the mechanics of Edinburgh."

Professor PILLANS said he rose, with some hesitation, to second the motion being himself one of the Directors in whose name the Schools of Arts had been hitherto conducted; but he was encouraged to give way to his feelings by the consideration, that he and his brother Directors were little more than sleeping partners in the concern, that whatever merit there was in the conception and execution of the various plans that led to its unexampled success was due solely and entirely to Mr. Horner, whom all the Directors in the habit of attending the meetings were, as ready as himself to admit, to have been not only the originator, but to the present moment the very soul and spirit of the

institution. That difficulty which the Secretary complained of in assembling a quorum arose not from any lukewarmness in the cause, but from the unbounded confidence which they had learned from experience to repose in his zeal and ability. Which respect to the charge of mixing up politics in the conduct of the institution, which had been strangely, he had almost said basely, certainly most falsely and groundlessly insinuated, it had been, he could state from personal knowledge, a primary object with his friend all along to exclude this poison, and to associate in his benevolent purpose good men of all parties indifferently; nor was there one effect which Mr. Horner and himself had more steadily contemplated, both as most desirable and most likely to result from the School of Arts, than that of withdrawing the attention of the labouring classes from angry political discussion, begun in the workshop and adjourned to the alehouse, and substituting topics of conversation and reading more useful in themselves, and less apt to excite and inflame their passions. And this was no idle theory, but confirmed, by facts, the occurrence of which, and that on a pretty large scale, had come to his knowledge on unquestionable authority. If any additional proof were wanting on this head, it would only be necessary to mention that, in the library, a part of the establishment more prominent and imposing than the lectures, but not less important in its bearing on the minds of the mechanics, donations of books were rejected even at a time when it was most desirable to swell the catalogue, because the subjects of them did not exactly correspond with the ends of the institution, as stated in the prospectus. Most cordially therefore did he second this motion of Mr. Cockburn, being convinced, for his own part, that a vote of thanks had not often been given in Edinburgh for the accomplishment of a great public good.

On the motion of GEORGE JOSEPH BELL, Esq. advocate, the thanks of the meeting were voted to the other Directors, and afterwards to Mr. Henderson, for his able conduct in the chair, and the meeting broke up.

Song from Sir William.

[The wit of Sir WILLIAM is almost proverbial, but, till he breathed the air of Scotland, it was not known that he was a Poet. At a superb fête on the departure, Sir WILLIAM, when conviviality was at its height, was "knocked down for a song"—many of his old friends thought he would never rise again—when he, with infinite good-humour, sang the following verses, which he declared to be a *very bit trite* of his own, and, as he conceived, exceedingly appropriate and well-timed. It is, said he, in the words of BURNS, "the gallant Royal Scot's Address to his heroic followers on the eventful morning"]

SCOTS, WHA HAE W! WALLACE BLEED.

See BURNS, vol. iv. p. 105-125.

SCOTS, wha hae w! GEORDE fœd,
SCOTS, whom siller aft has led
To cross the Tweed by hunger sped,
And raise the cry, *Wha wants me?*

Now's the day, and now's the hour;
See to England how we scour;
See the road to wealth power,
Pensions, place and luxury!

Wha'd not be a pawkie knave?
Wha'd not crouch, and cringe and crave?
Wha'd refuse to be a slave?
Loaves and fishes bid you flee!

High let hearts for England burn,
For her *lux'ries* dainty yearn;
Here you hae na, as I learn,
A single necessary.

Wha for Scotland's King and law,
Care nor bawbie, nor a straw,
Seek to rise, tho' freedom ta',
Caledonians! on wi' me!

By oppressions woes and pains!
By Corruption's servile chains!
Wha whad not enrich his veins?
Sure to plunder's to be free!

Turning coats is unco' dūn,
By your meickle betters done,
But 'tis fit you first get one—
Forward! let us do—not die!

There! said Sir William, when he had finished, that's what I call with BURNS, when he sent this song to Mr. THOMPSON, "the cause of TRUTH and LIBERTY."

* *Heroic, anglic'd, walking to London without shoes.*

To the Memory of the Greek Chief,

WHO HAS RECENTLY GIVEN GREECE THE EXAMPLE OF A SECOND LEONIDAS.

"The foe is before ye," young BOZARTS cried,
As he led his bold ranks up Thermopyæ's side
"The foe is before ye, and, sleeping beneath,
"Are the heroes of Sparta who triumph'd in death.
"Like them let us wait for the tyrant's array,
"Their shades bid us welcome to glory to-day;
"Let us fall as they fell, and thus dying, to avenge,
"The trophies of Freedom shall bloom on our grave."

He spoke—and the torrent of foemen was stayed,
Like Persia when cloven by Sparta's red blade;
And the heath of the mountain, the rock of the dell,
Were strewn'd with the tyrants who rush'd on and fell.

And Greece, too, shall mourn o'er the heroes that died,
But her cypress is mix'd with the laurel's green pride;
For it was not in vain that young BOZARTS shed
His life on that spot where LEONIDAS bled.

Young Greek, thou wert worthy to share in his fame,
Like his was your cause, and your virtue the same;
He died a crown'd martyr at Liberty's shrine,
And as holy and grand was that proud death of thine!

And the matrons of Greece have array'd thy cold clay
With garlands whose fragrance shall not die away;
And they ask the Great Being, while gracing thy tomb,
That their sons may have virtue to envy thy doom.

Tho' the lyre of thy country for ages has hung
On the laurel of D-elphi, all mute and unstrung,
Yet again it shall wake with the fire of the free,
And pour the wild requiem sweetly o'er thee.

And the mountain that nurses the eagle shall form
Thy awful memorial, thro' sun-shine and storm;
And whether it wears Heaven's brightness or gloom,
Oh, who would not wish for so glorious a tomb!

Hydrophobia.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

SIR,

In a matter, in which the community are so deeply interested, I am at a loss to account for the entire negligence of those, under whose cognizance the subject ranges, that no efficient step is taken to keep out of the way of doing mischief, the numbers of half-famished dogs, * that are continually wondering abroad: for the several cases of Hydrophobia that have recently occurred (and one there is at this moment, within my knowledge, of a most melancholy description, in a case of Hydrophobia, under which the nephew of a respectable Solicitor, in Clifford's Inn, is now suffering) surely demand some public measure to abate the growing evil.

I am, &c.

J. G.

* Dr. Thomas, in his "Modern Practice of Physic," assigns, as one of the predisposing causes of Canine Madness, food in putrid state, and a deficiency of water.

London Gazette.

WHITEHALL, SEPTEMBER 14, 1822.

The King has been pleased to nominate and appoint the undermentioned Knights Commanders of the Most Honourable Military Order of Bath, to be Knights Grand Crosses of the said Most Honourable Military Order:

Vice Admiral Sir Thomas Boulden Thompson, Baronet, *vice* Admiral Sir John Colpoys, deceased.

Vice-Admiral Sir Harry Neale, Baronet, *vice* Admiral Sir William Young, deceased.

WAR-OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 13, 1822.

17th Regt. of Light Dragoons—Major-General Lord Robert Edward Henry Somerset, K.C.B. to be Colonel, *vice* General Delancey, deceased. 53d Regt. of Foot—Lieut.-General Sir George Townshend Walker, G. C. B. from the 84th Foot. to be Colonel, *vice* Lieut.-General Sir Hildebrand Oakes, deceased. 84th ditto—Major-General Sir Deunis Pack, K.C.B. to be Colonel, *vice* Walker.

BREVET.—Major Edward Hay, Commandant of the Honourable the East India Company's Depot at Chatham, to have the temporary rank of Lieut.-Colonel, during the period of being so employed.

WHITEHALL, SEPTEMBER 14, 1822.

The King has been pleased to appoint Thomas Lightfoot, Esq. Accountant and Comptroller-General of Stamp Duties.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—9—

The Auction.

While the Auctioneer's Hammer is ringing in our ears, the knell of that heavy punishment, which has been inflicted upon the late Editor of this Paper, for legally exercising the Liberty of the Press; we sit down, with melancholy sensations, to arrange for to-day's JOURNAL, some portions of the abundant materials that flow in upon us from all quarters,—affording a gratifying proof of the state of Public Opinion with regard to the act by which we have been forcibly deprived of its original Conductor. In a British Community, oppression will ever defeat its own object by creating a reaction of public feeling against it; and we feel that the arbitrary measures adopted against the JOURNAL must thus operate in its favor.

In this climate, so destructive to the constitutions of Europeans, who all visit it either to make or to repair a fortune,—scarcely a day passes in which we are not summoned in our Daily Advertisers, to attend the Sale of the effects if some one of them departing from amongst us, either in the endeavour to revive an impaired constitution; or of one snatched from us by the relentless hand of death; or of one retiring to spend a fortune and the remnant of his life, amidst the scenes of his early hopes and fears.

In both of the former cases, it is impossible for any feeling mind to witness a scene of this kind, entirely unmoved; or without reflecting on the vicissitudes and changes to which mankind is liable, all over the globe.

Yesterday, however, we were called on to witness the Sale of the Splendid Establishment of one, not leaving us by choice; of one, not cut off in the flower of his manhood, by the stern destroyer—Death; but of one, thrust out from amongst us for honestly exercising his reasoning faculties, in the discharge of what he conceived to be his duty; for aiming, in fact, the shaft of ridicule against the sin of avarice.

We have looked on at this wreck of honestly acquired property, till our hearts fairly sickened at this melancholy picture of the effects produced by the exercise of an Arbitrary Power that has been here so lauded: and we turned from it, at length, with a sensation of the deepest humiliation: wondering that men, calling themselves Free-Born Britons, could be found to advocate the necessity for the existence of a power, so abominable, a power superseding all justice and equity by punishing as a crime that which the Law does not pronounce an offence, without even hearing the accused—and lamenting that one we have known and admired, should have fallen a victim to the exercise of it.

While we write, the din of the Auctioneer's Hammer and the busy hum of the bidders, are still ringing and stunning our ears; as if by way of accompaniment to the melancholy train of reflections, created by the scene we have just witnessed. Under any circumstances, a Sale of the kind we have been alluding to, must, we think, give birth to painful reflections: but to all who, like ourselves, value the existence of mental freedom higher than mere animal life without it, we think the contemplation of a wreck of property, so produced as that we yesterday witnessed, must inspire reflections more mortifying, at least to human pride, if not more melancholy, than the view of a similar scene occasioned by death. That is a fate decreed by the unerring wisdom of an over-ruling Power, and the sacrifice of the property of him thus taken from us, cannot affect him in the silent grave. But when we witness such destructive consequences arising from the exercise of an Arbitrary Power rested in a fellow mortal, we feel as if one of the props that sustain the elevation of rational man over irrational creatures, were withdrawn; and many degrees of his boasted superiority, wrested from him.

When we mingled, yesterday, with the throng of the indifferent, the contemplative, and perhaps, (tho' for the honor of human nature we hope not) the rejoicing; When we beheld all with equal freedom penetrating either to gratify their taste or their avariciousness into what were the sanctuaries of domestic retirement

and privacy, now laid open at the nod of power to the rude gaze of every stranger, we were ready, on beholding the indifference of some who witnessed a spectacle so calculated, to excite our deepest sympathy, to exclaim:—

“Can such things be and not excite our special wonder,”

And left the scene with disgust, thus to give expression as far as language can give it, to the thoughts inspired by the contemplation of this desolating scene.”

The immense concourse of the Inhabitants of Calcutta yesterday, at the sale, the eager competition for the several articles, speak volumes; proving beyond question that a general wish existed to secure some relic of the banished Editor, as of a Martyr to the Public good; who had been mainly instrumental in rendering the Indian Press a source of general advantage to the community.

Friend of Mr. Bankes.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

From several hints that have come out in the writings of yourself and the BULL Editor, and of several Correspondents in both Papers of late, I am sorry to see that it appears to be an understood thing who will be found to be the FRIEND OF BANKES and who SEMPRONIUS. It is no affair of mine about the latter of these Reverend combatants. I leave him to those of his own persuasion to deal with, as may seem most besting, if he really turns out to be the disguised Writer who has been blowing the wicked trumpet of discord and war, and trying all he could to set folks by the ears and make the mob rise up to tear in pieces a political enemy. I come of another Church altogether, Sir; we think there is not half the difference there should be between Rome and Canterbury, and that Theological hatred is as deadly almost in one as in the other of these famous strong-holds of the Church Militant.

But as I said before, let the Reverend Anglican, if guilty of this deed, be judged by those who belong to his own pale;—happy the Sheep with such Shepherds!

My business is with the other of these worthy and reverend Arcadians. I have studied the Letters of BANKES's Friend with no little care since the insinuation first appeared, and I am as sure as man can be of any thing depending on internal evidence, that the FRIEND OF BANKES is not a Scotsman, nor a Minister of our Church. I will not say that he is not a Priest, for that is a word which, though we do not use it commonly in our Presbyterian forms, we understand well enough when applied in its invidious sense to a Jesuit or an Inquisitor, and perhaps such a Priest is more likely to have written the letters we are speaking of than any body else.

It is true that there are circumstances strong in favor of the general belief as to the identity of this writer. There are a few of our peculiar idioms in the letters—but very few—and the writer set out by assuring us that he had lately arrived among us and was a FRIEND OF MR. BANKES; there are also curious coincidences, such as the unaccountable and personal hatred shewn to the Editor of a successful Paper, the spleen and mortification that now and then break out, with complaisant advertencies to the state of the Press and of Censorship some years ago,* and signs of a community of labour between two learned professions in the same joint work.

All these are, I will allow, somewhat strong, but they are not strong enough; any man who wanted to calumniate or ruin an enemy whom he hated because he had beaten him, would naturally disguise himself most carefully, to prevent his venom from failing of effect by the motives for his unextinguished hatred being suspected. Thus a judicious backbiter would get some friend to scatter a few national peculiarities of expression—turns of thought

* Similarity of idea and turn of expression with that most excellent blockhead—the ORIENTAL REVIEWER,—Sanctionation Redivivus.

—or personal hits—as so many tubs to the whale, to blind pursuers or divert pursuit.

There is nothing more than this in the internal evidence of the FRIEND OF BANKES, so much relied on by those who would fain bring our humble but independent form of Church Government into contempt, by holding up our Clergy to contempt, as men devoted with the worldly passions they teach us to eschew, covetous of power and place, full of spiritual pride, men whose kingdom is of this world, and among all its miserable broils and dissensions, and victories and defeats!

Against all these men and all such arguments, however plausible and specious, I will only say, the thing is impossible. In all the Churches that derive from the parent Genevan stock, the utmost care has been taken to ensure good morals, and the absence of laical and ungodly passions, by exclusion of Ministers from the theatres of worldly ambition, and by limitation of stipends to a very moderate scale, which effectually prevents any but the humble classes of society from aspiring to offices in the Ministry. These, Sir, are the checks provided by the great Reformers against the insinuation of grovelling worldly passions into their Churches, and so effectual have they proved by universal admission and experience, that I will be bound to say no Clergyman of these denominations ever wrote or could write a Letter in which he indirectly leads the world to believe him the Friend of a man he never saw in all his life! Indeed it is equally impossible he should have written a series of Letters without name, containing the most black and atrocious calumnies against a known Individual: the most mean and fulsome adulation of all in power, as if he expected to be rewarded for his zeal like others before him; and to be sure not least, considering all things, that we do remember the most extravagant commendations of a Right Rev. Person, who, well as he deserved fair and general praise even from one of another cloth, ought scarcely to have been lauded to the skies for certain points in his public discharge of duties which our Church considers to be at least of questionable expediency or propriety in Church Policy.

It is I say again impossible. With what face could such a man, as the enemies of our Church would make of this FRIEND or MR. BANKES,—with what face could he ascend the Pulpit, and after casting up his eyes and invoking the God of Peace and of Truth, not in set form, but with extemporary energy, address a moral discourse to his audience, full of exhortations to brotherly love and unity, against backbiting and bearing false witness, and exhorting to forgiveness of injuries! Above all, how could he warn unworthy Communicants not to approach the Table of the Lord's Supper lest they should eat and drink damnation to themselves? The thing is impossible—no man of our Church could have hypocrisy enough to do it, whatever they may think of such things in more worldly establishments.

PRESBYTEROS.

NOTE OF THE EDITOR.

It is impossible for us to afford our Correspondent any assistance, in clearing up the doubts that hang over this mysterious affair, and have so long puzzled the wisest heads and disturbed the weakest, to very little purpose. The high character generally allowed to the Clergy of that Church to which PRESBYTEROS belongs, would induce most people to incline to his opinion, which is strongly countenanced by previous occurrences in the Polemics of Calcutta, that must be still fresh in the Public remembrance. The celebrated Letter of AN ENGLISHMAN was, in like manner, hastily ascribed to a Scotch Clergyman; but this was not a Letter written for the malignant purpose of blasting the character of another by atrocious calumny: quite the contrary; the Writer acted the generous part of a Defender, and strove to turn aside the shafts of censure which had been directed, as he contended, too keenly against the individuals whose champion he voluntarily undertook to be. Yet, so convinced was Dr. Bryce of the impropriety of its being thought that one of his sacred profession was thus engaged in Newspaper controversy, even as the defender of others, whose character was supposed to have been cruelly and improperly exposed,—that he publicly denied the imputation, by a Notice inserted in all the Calcutta Papers, a few days after the charge, as appears, by his authority and at his request. This affords strong grounds for inference, that he, who would not be thought the Defender of those supposed to be unjustly attacked, would far less choose to sit down under the imputation of being himself the aggressor, the slanderer, the calumniator of another man's character. He who thought it impro-

per, or disgraceful, to appear in the eyes of his flock and of other men, as the Castigator of one, who was said wantonly to have inflicted censorious punishment on a family filling the highest station in society, would not, surely, suffer himself to be considered the Literary Gladiator, voluntarily entering the arena of controversy, and, without provocation, assailing with unparalleled virulence the character of an individual with whom, as with all others, his profession enjoined him to live in peace, and charity, and brotherly love. True it is, that on the former occasion, as above stated, Dr. Bryce was so tender of his character, as not to allow vague insinuations of his being the author of a comparatively meritorious Letter, to pass without public disavowal; and that in the last case, on the contrary, the most direct imputations have been allowed to go abroad without any such contradiction, the Public being left to receive them as they might feel disposed, till surmise should settle down into immovable belief. It is written "blessed are the peace-makers," and therefore a Clergyman might not have felt disgraced by standing forward to punish the man who threw the first stone at the errors of his neighbours; yet Dr. Bryce would not allow even this character to be attributed to him, and therefore disavowed the Letter of AN ENGLISHMAN as unjustly laid to his charge: so tenacious was he of his reputation. Again it is written "love thy neighbour—cursed be he who sows discord among brethren," and we are all the children of one Father. It is therefore incompatible with the Clerical character to blow up the coals of strife and tear asunder the bands of society: but this is the grievous charge that has for months lain against Dr. Bryce since his return to India; and yet he, on former occasions so careful of his reputation, has by his silence in this case, allowed judgement to be recoiled against him in the Public Opinion, from which, as he has allowed his day of grace to pass for ever, it would appear, there can be now no appeal.

Review at Lucknow.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I was as much pleased on reading the account of the Review at Lucknow, which appeared in your Paper of to-day, as was His Majesty the King of Oude on witnessing it, and receiving the three Royal Salutes on the grand occasion. I have no objection to all that was said or done on the Parade, or in the Tents; no, not even to the expenditure of so much gunpowder, as was caused by His Majesty's august presence; but, as an Englishman, as a lover of my country, whose welfare is so vitally connected with the preservation of India to her, and, indeed, as you have already some where so well remarked,—I believe, in your "APPEAL on behalf of Indo-Britons,"—that India is the brightest Diamond in the Imperial Crown of England; I do not, certainly, like that part of the business, in which "His Majesty was pleased to compliment the NATIVE OFFICERS and MEN with a donation of 5,000 Rupees!" Do you note this, Mr. Editor; for it is a dangerous thing to permit Native Princes and our sable Soldiery, to come in contact with each other, having such dangerous weapons in their hands; and, more particularly, the King of Oude, who is an independent Sovereign of an extensive Territory, with a very rich and full Treasury at command. For no sword of steel is near so powerful, as a sword of gold.—REMEMBER VELLORE: and never forget the horrid massacre of BRITONS there, by our Native Soldiery, instigated by the Mysore Princes!! Such compliments paid by the Indian Princes to our Native Officers and Men, will be attended with more dangerous consequences to the stability of our over-grown Empire in the East, than millions of compliments paid to Reverend Divines, and Clerks of Stationary, similar to those for which your Predecessor is, without Judge or Jury, ordered to quit the country within the short period of two months. Let all true Englishmen distinguish between real danger, and imaginary alarm.

I hope, Sir, this is no Treason against his Oudean Majesty: if it be, I request you will not insert it, or I may also be transmitted, in the same ship with Mr. Buckingham.

Feb. 26, 1823.

A TRUE BRITON.

COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

| BUY] | CALCUTTA. | [SELL |
|------------|--|--------|
| 1 11] a 2½ | On London 6 Months eight, per Sicca Rupees, .. | 2 a 2½ |
| | Bombay 30 Days sight, per 100 Bombay Rupees .. | 92 |
| | Madras ditto, 94 a 98 Sa. Rs. per 100 Madras Rupees. • | |
| | Bills on Court of Directors drawn, at 2 6—Exchange 26 a 28 p.ct. prem. | |
| | Bank Shares—Premium 00 to 62 per cent. | |

Saturday, March 1, 1823.

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Secular Emoluments.*To the Editor of the Journal.*

SIR,

The following information was lately communicated to me by a friend:—Not many years ago, a poor Scotch Clergyman, with a view to eke up a scanty subsistence, took a share in a Provincial Magazine; for which he was arraigned before the General Assembly of the Kirk. In consequence, however, of some favourable circumstances attending his case, many of his brethren were disposed to view it with compassion; but a *Reverend Divine*, who had returned to Scotland from a foreign land, pronounced the crime unpardonable, and opined, that it was a burning shame for a Minister of the Gospel to be engaged in a secular concern of emolument. The consequence was, the delinquent was expelled from the Ministry.

I have been informed, that every thing connected with this case is well known to the Clerk to the Stationery Committee, Calcutta, and it is devoutly to be wished that he would favour the Community with the particulars.

Your obedient Servant,

Rangoon, Feb. —, 1823.

PETER POUNCE.

A Morsel for the Bull.

MUTATO NOMINE, DE TE FABULA NARRATUR.

To quote is one thing—to apply another.

So says at least our Bullite Brother.—ANONYM.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

The following quotation from the MORNING CHRONICLE, describing a system existing in Scotland, has been thought a perfect picture of a system existing elsewhere, and much nearer to us, it may be so; but as I am not apt at tracing resemblances, I send it to Brother JONATHAN, striking out the word Scotland, and leaving him to fill up the Blank according to his own taste, "it being one thing (as he says) to quote and another to apply," and he being a Bullite as well as a Yankey, I guess he can have no difficulty in doing the latter.

"They ought to have seen that such a system of literary assassination as existed in ———, could never be tolerated in a civilized country. A number of individuals HOLDING HIGH OFFICIAL SITUATIONS in ———, are named as parties suspected of conducting a trade in the vilest slander UNDER THE MASK OF A SHAM RESPONSIBILITY. The continuance of a system of this kind would be one of the greatest evils that could afflict a country; and WHENEVER AN EXPOSURE TAKES PLACE, it ought to be turned to good account."—*Morning Chronicle*.

I am, &c.

February 21, 1823.

BROTHER NATHAN.

Late Changes.*To the Editor of the Journal.*

SIR,

Since you have commenced your labours as Editor of the JOURNAL, I have been particularly attentive as to the manner in which you have conducted it: and I believe the greatest encomium I can bestow on you, will be in saying, that, I do not observe the slightest deviation from the course followed by your Predecessor. The attempt to put down the JOURNAL, either by force or writing against it, will never succeed, so long as it continues to have its columns filled with interesting intelligence, and agreeable correspondence; and to uphold the principles so ably advocated by its late Editor. All classes of people, whether high or low, rich or poor, will always support that Paper, from which, in their own idea, they derive most pleasure and satisfaction.

The BULL, I observe, still retains its animosity and opposition: in fact, it is the only thing in that Paper that is worth reading. Poor JOHN BULL! what forms the very best part of his Paper, is the very worst in your's; as any controversy with him, takes up that space in your Paper, which, otherwise, might be filled with some local information or entertaining letter. Of

this you appear to be aware: and it is, with much pleasure, I observe your brief replies to his attacks. He is attempting all in his power to draw you on; should you, however, retain your accustomed manner, his efforts will be useless: and he must then sink into the gulph of oblivion, on which he has been long bordering.—A BULL, Sir, cannot live without food; and as he depends almost solely on you for his, refuse it him, and—he dies.

Wishing you every prosperity in your new undertaking.

Your's truly,

February 27, 1823.

Indo-British Academy.*To the Editor of the Journal.*

SIR,

I do not suppose any thing that has the smallest foundation in justice or truth, can be urged against the establishment of a School, on the plan now in contemplation; a Prospectus of which was submitted to the public in one of your JOURNALS, of a recent date. On the contrary, it is my humble opinion that great advantages, (and such as can never be expected from any existing School,) may be looked for from the new Institution. The advantages are as follow:—

1.—In the present existing Schools, each master is at liberty to receive, for the sake of worldly gain, more Pupils than his time and talents may allow him to educate; but in the Institution proposed, no such temptation can exist: for the School being superintended by twelve Parents and Guardians, will not admit of a greater number of Scholars than the person appointed to instruct, will, in the judgement of those Parents and Guardians, have time to superintend. This is a great advantage, and almost exclusively promises an efficient education.

2.—In the present existing Schools, the Schoolmaster may not only neglect his duty, but be guilty of such breach of morals, as to set a contagious example, because he is his own Lord and Master. In the Institution contemplated, such liability will receive a most powerful, and salutary, if not effectual check, by the vigilant and deeply interested superintendence of twelve Parents and Guardians.

3.—Many a Schoolmaster on the existing plan, may exhibit particular pupils whose proficiency he approves of, although they should not have been altogether instructed by him, as specimens of the progress made in his Schools; and thereby deceive the public into a favourable belief of his merits; but such a Bait can never exist in the Institution proposed.

4.—A School formed much on the plan of that at Kilderpore, promises in time to lower the rates of education to the Parents of Indo-British children, for whom it is principally intended.—An object of great importanee, especially to the Indo-British Community, as they are not generally rich.

5.—The greatest comfort and degree of health may be expected from the local Situation of the School, as here every temptation which now offers to existing Schoolmasters, (even perhaps at the expence of their charge,) to occupy their own buildings for the sake of greater profit, will be effectually precluded.

6.—Those parents in the Mofussil, who are not on the spot to judge of the excellency, or otherwise, of any existing Schools, will be materially assisted by a Plan which consigns a seminary to the fostering and interested care of twelve Parents and Guardians.

In fact, Sir, I really believe, that the benefits to be derived from such an Institution are incalculable; and not only immediately beneficial in its effects, but extending its benign influence to the remotest posterity. I cannot better describe the excellency of the plan on which it is to be formed, than by comparing it to British Law, which extends its broad shield between an Arbitrary Government and the subject, so this plan, will alike extend its salutary influence between the possible defects and failings of School Masters on the plan of existing Schools, and the rising generation.

I am, Sir, &c.

Feb. 27, 1823.

A PARENT.

Advertisement.**SEMPRONIUS AND NIGEL.**

Whereas, Joseph Sempronius my Cook, and G. P. Nigel my Butler, having both on the 15th instant, absconded from my Ship, the "SUMMARY BANISHMENT," after receiving advances of Pay, the Public is hereby cautioned that I will not be answerable for any Debts they may contract, or Libels which they may publish.

Feb. 27, 1833.

J. TWEELEDUM, Commander

Benefit Concerts.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

Could you inform me, through the medium of your Paper, why Foreigners are always allowed to have Benefit Concerts? It is a matter of surprise to me, that none of this highly favored Violin Players, Opera, and Church Singers, would ever come forward to promote the Irish Contributions by raising a Concert; but when they are doing as well as can be expected in this country, and by far, much better, than they ever could in their own, they are not content, but must tax the Public by an advertisement of a Benefit Concert to be given under High Patronage. The public would do well not to allow needy Foreigners thus to draw on their purse at the exorbitant rates of 32, 24 and 16 Rupees. If the prices were 16, 12 and 8, it would be quite enough, and more than sufficient to support one of them for a full twelve month. It would not be surprising if each one, in his turn, should advertise for a Benefit Concert every succeeding month.

Though I am a lover of Music myself, still I would never allow an imposition of this kind to pass unnoticed. In the first place I would ask, is this Foreigner unable to work, like the Widow and Children of the late Mr. Dias, for whose Benefit a Concert was lately given and met with such success? if so, let him word his advertisement accordingly; and secondly, what right has he to expect a Benefit Concert from an Indian Public when it is universally known, that he made a fortune a few years back, went to his country, squandered it away, and is returned for another Benefit. I hope, Sir, you will give the above a corner in your JOURNAL, where it will meet the eye of one of these self-Benefiters, and induce them to lower their rates.

I remain, Sir, Your obedient Servant.

Garden Reach, Feb. 25, 1833.

A LOVER OF JUSTICE

Note.—We give the above a corner at the request of the writer, chiefly with a view to afford others an opportunity of exposing the erroneousness of the notions it contains, lest they should extend to any considerable portion of the community. Foreign Professors of Music most generally have Benefit Concerts, we imagine, because they devote their attention more to that delightful science; and their powers of entertaining are rewarded with a proportionate degree of Public patronage. Nothing but envy and illiberality could censure any set of men, to whatever country they may belong, for supporting themselves by the cultivation of musical talents, and reaping from a grateful Public the well earned fruits of their exertions to afford them such an elegant amusement. We should have no objection whatever to see the prices lowered; but as the Public are not compelled to pay these prices, as they may absent themselves if they please, (since Music is not like Salt, a necessary of life which must be had at whatever price the monopolizer chooses to demand), we think such terms as "imposition," and others which have been omitted, are quite unwarrantable. The Performer's imprudence in squandering a fortune already acquired, cannot be commended for his own sake; but if he has brought back to India the same talents which made him a fortune before, now probably greatly improved, we do not see why their exercise for our advantage should not be rewarded with equal liberality. Mr. Kean's having made a splendid fortune before he went to America, is no reason he should receive no remuneration for his performance after his return to England; and a Benefit affords the Public an opportunity they do not otherwise possess of testifying their approbation of a favorite Performer.—Ed.

New South Wales.

Hobart Town Gazette Nov. 2.—*Wreck of the Actæon.*—On Thursday night, Captain Mackey, Commander of the ship ACTÆON, came up to Port in the ship's longboat, bringing the melancholy intelligence of the wreck of that vessel, which unfortunately struck on a reef, at twelve o'clock at night, on Saturday last, between the South Cape and the entrance of D'Entrecasteaux's Channel, where she now lays, having driven very near to a small island, bilged.

Captain Mackey left the vessel on Monday last, his Chief Officer and European part of the Crew remaining on the island contiguous to and in charge of the wreck. We are happy to state, that no lives were lost; and that there is every reason to believe the major part of the cargo, consisting of salt pork, spirits, wines, soap, and piece goods, as well as the wreck of the ship, will be saved, if the weather continue favourable.

The Government colonial brig PRINCE LEOPOLD, and the brig DEVON, proceeded down the River this morning, for the purpose of assisting to save the cargo and wreck.

The ACTÆON came from the Isle of France, which she left the 6th Sept.

Hobart Town Gazette, November 23, 1832.—Arrived on Monday, last, from Calcutta, the ship JOHN BULL, Captain B. Orman; with, merchandise.—Passengers, Mr. A. McLeod, Mr. N. Youngs, Mr. G. E. Hudson, Mrs. Ritchie and two children.

Yesterday arrived the ship ADMIRAL COCKBURN, Captain Briggs from England; sailed the 13th July, the same day as the Arab, and touched at Madras and the Cape.—The ADMIRAL COCKBURN, has a valuable investment on board.

The same day arrived the brig CHRISTIANA, Captain Hall, from London, which she left the 15th July.

Remain in the port and river, His Majesty's colonial brigs PRINCE LEOPOLD and DUKE OF YORK; the ships ADMIRAL COCKBURN, EMERALD, JOHN BULL, and GENERAL GATES (American); the brigs CHRISTIANA, DEVON, MINERVA, and JUPITER; and the schooner ELIZABETH MARY.

Wreck of the Ship Actæon.—On Monday last His Majesty's colonial brig PRINCE LEOPOLD, and the brig DEVON, which proceeded down the river about three weeks ago to assist in saving the cargo and wreck of the ship ACTÆON, which lately struck on a reef near the South Cape, returned to Port.—The DEVON, we understand, brings up about 500 barrels of salt pork and beef, &c.—In a gale of wind which was experienced in the night of this day fortnight, the hawk, with such remaining part of the cargo as had not been got out, went to pieces, and before day-light next morning the major part of it was carried out to sea.

Three seamen belonging to the PRINCE LEOPOLD, who were employed in bringing off things in a boat from the wreck, were unfortunately drowned by the upsetting of the boat, which was afterwards found buried in the sand on the beach about 40 miles distant from the place where she capsized.

Indecent Assault.—Alexander Mills, a convict, servant to a settler near Jericho, was tried before a Bench of Magistrates at Jericho, on the 19th instant, on a charge of indecent assault upon the wife of his employer, during the absence of the latter from home. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and the Court, to mark their sense of the offence, sentenced him to receive 100 lashes, and to be transported to Macquarie Harbour.

Passengers from England.—The two arrivals this week from England bring the following Passengers, 96 in number, viz.:

Per ADMIRAL COCKBURN.—Mr. and Mrs. A. Mackenzie and family Mr. and Mrs. J. White and family, Mr. and Mrs. Household, Mrs. Martha Corney, Mrs. Dillon and family, Mr. Sutherland, and Mr. Hardwick.

Per CHRISTIANA.—Captain Allison and Lady, with 5 children (one having been born on the passage), Lieut. Slade, R. N. Mr. and Mrs. Oxford and family, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. Allen, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Watts and 2 children, Mr. S. Butcher, Mr. P. Harbottle, Mr. H. Harbottle, Mr. Faber, Mr. and Mrs. Reeves and 5 children, Mr. and Mrs. Raynton and 3 children, Mr. P. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Guy and 4 children, Mr. and Mrs. B. Guy and Mr. Urquhart, Mr. J. Jewell, Mr. A. Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. J. Fletcher and child, Mr. and Mrs. Pullen and 2 children, Mr. J. Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. Downward and 8 children, Mrs. Sharpe, Mrs. Houghton and 2 children, Mr. J. Thomas, Mr. James Rush, Mr. Flude, and Mrs. Moss; together with several other persons.

Biblical Appeal.

Although we are desirous of guarding the columns of the JOURNAL, against the introduction of Religious Disquisitions; we nevertheless feel disposed to deviate from the general rule, in this instance, by complying with the request of BIBLIOPHILES: and since his Communication appeals only to the best feelings of all who glory in the name of Christian, we the more readily give it insertion, notwithstanding its great length.—Ed.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR, Need I apologize to your Readers for requesting the insertion of the following Extracts in the JOURNAL? I feel persuaded, I need not; and I hope neither their length nor the subject they advocate, will be any objection to their appearing in the columns of your Paper. They are taken from a Tract, entitled *THE EXCELLENCE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, an Argument for their more general dispersion at home and abroad.* My copy of the Tract is a second edition, printed twenty years ago; and perhaps not another copy of it is to be found in the country:—

"When a man of reflection and piety contemplates himself, the world he lives in, and all the wonders of the sky, he enjoys a bright manifestation of the grandeur and the munificence of God. But when he approaches the scene discovered by the light of revealed truth, his ideas of the divine attributes become more elevated and enlarged, he feels profounder astonishment, and he offers warmer praise.

"Revelation is the chief indulgence vouchsafed to mankind. It is a luminary which, as it passes through the moral firmament, directs, enlivens, and renders fruitful in every good work. How dismal would the whole field of existence appear, should that luminary be extinguished! The earth and the heavens do indeed exhibit abundant proof that the Creator is entitled to all that adoration can express, and gratitude perform. But what is there effectually known concerning him, where the volume of creation is the sole instructor? Search the annals of the globe, go from the wildest barbarism to the high-wrought specimens of cultivated life, and then make your report: Will it afford us pleasure—will it soothe our vanity, will it suggest that Revelation might have been spared? Far from it: your report, instead of declaring that mortals by their own sagacity have arrived at the knowledge of God, will convince us that from age to age they have generally been averse to the subject. You will describe fancy framing ten thousand deities, superstition staining their altars with human blood, sensuality incorporating their abominations with the ivy rites and mysteries of religion. You will remind us that of the ancient teachers some believed that the earth was the offspring of chance, others that it was eternal, others that it was God himself. These extravagant and jarring theories, so hardly to be distinguished from downright atheism, threw open all the floodgates of licentiousness. In fact, are there any abominations so palpable, any practices so vile, but what have been allowed if not patronised by paganism both ancient and modern, and by every other system which has opposed itself to the claims of christianity? Alas! man, left to his own reasonings, is soon lost in the maze of error, and abandoned to his own propensities, soon becomes familiar with all the varieties of vice. We have seen that he may advance the arts and sciences, and gather round him a listening crowd, and secure what is called an immortal name, while the unerring Judge brands him for a laborious trifler or an eloquent impostor.

"Yet there are those among us with whom pagan productions are all in all. It is a point of candour to suppose that such persons have diligently examined what they so vehemently applaud. We ask them then—what has the much vaunted wisdom of the world achieved? Where are its learned disputants, its venerable sages, its solemn priests, its impressive orators, and its fascinating poets? Where are the monuments which they erected with so much care, and of which the sceptic tells with such invidious exultation? Religion, that infinitely important subject, commanded a large share of their attention. It was explored in their books of philosophy, it was embellished with all the colourings of rhetoric, and it blended itself with the whole mass of their civil institutions. What then did they discover and inculcate? We wish to learn from their fervent exhortations the full extent of those obligations under which they laid their contemporaries and their successors.

"It is not our design to detract either from their attainments or from their character. The religion we profess would spurn so wanton a sacrifice, and humanity could not offer it. We can point out sentiments in their books and actions in their lives, at the recital of which the majority of those who are denominated Christians have reason to blush and tremble.

"Still we must be permitted to remark, that as far as we have inquired, the result displays imbecility in the greatest moralists whether of Greece or of Rome, and involves them in complicated error. If they corrected a few errors, they broached, or at least perpetuated more; if they did not swell the torrent of corruption, neither did they apparently diminish it; if against some gross but prevailing usages they declaimed with the few, they practised those usages with the many; for they were strangers to the magnanimity which would have impelled them at all hazards to avow a more rational system, and thus to disabuse the uninitiated vulgar.

"It has been questioned whether reason, with the vast fabric and furniture of the universe in view, ever conducted an individual to the bare idea of God. Reason embraces the idea promptly, but what are the experiments which prove that reason could have originally suggested it? That we find it among fierce and roving Barbarians, yea that some unseen superior Power is acknowledged among all nations, however doubted by many, we may, without the smallest prejudice to what we are now supporting, admit; since to affirm that men every where believe in a deity may be nothing more than to affirm that the conviction, when once planted in the mind, is too vigorous, too accordant with the appearances of nature, and too congenial with all our ideas of happiness to be wholly eradicated. The question however occurs—"how was the conviction first obtained?" It is mere assumption to reply—"man no sooner reasoned than he had it," nor is there any necessity for establishing such a fact; because the easier supposition is, that the Creator commenced an intercourse with the first human being in a very early period of his existence, and that he then informed him of his origin, obligations, and prospects, charging him to repeat the things, which he had heard, to his offspring. There could be no want of ability to communicate these things, and independently of express revelation on this point, the belief that he did communicate them, rests on the firmest ground of probability. We observe that by our natural capacities we are fitted, and hence we conclude that we were formed for the service and enjoyment of God; but every view which we take of the divine character assures us, that whatever knowledge was requisite for such purposes God did not fail at the beginning to supply. If this account is satisfactory, why should we contend for a different one—why launch into the ocean of conjecture—above all, why, by attributing so rich a talent of discovery to reason, espouse a theory which previous considerations have either overthrown or demonstrated to be of no use? That tradition should have covered the idea of a God and made it universal through all ages, can surprise those only who forget the infinite magnitude of that idea, or who never knew how widely are diffused the tracks of some facts which tradition was less likely to preserve in an imperishable memorial.

"But if every experiment had shewn that unassisted reason would have taught us to 'look through nature up to nature's God,' if the philosophers had unanimously agreed that all things originated from one supreme and omnipotent Being; it will surely be confessed that this general and scanty system of theological faith, far from satisfying an anxious inquirer, could scarcely have sharpened his appetite for completer discoveries. Socrates was perhaps the wisest heathen that ever existed and he is represented by one of his disciples as intimating that men would continue ignorant on subjects of high and awful import, till a heavenly teacher should descend among them.

"The privilege which that distinguished philosopher supposed to be indispensable, had been long enjoyed by the inhabitants of Judea, and was afterwards liberally conferred on other countries. Successive ages were indulged with precept upon precept, and line upon line; men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost; and lest their doctrine should be forgotten and die with themselves, they digested it into a written record whose invaluable contents have been transmitted faithfully to our age. To this we turn, when the fictions of paganism have disgusted, and when its soundest speculations have disappointed us; happy to find in the Bible a rich depository of authentic and sacred intelligence. Here we learned that Jehovah, the only true God, laid the foundation of the earth, and that the heavens are the work of his hands. We read that he created man in his own image, and blessed him, and crowned him with glory and honour, putting all things under his feet. Having thus beheld man added to this part of the creation its chief ornament and visible head, made but a little lower than the angels: through the same medium we behold in the apostacy of man its direful consequences the malignant qualities of sin, while the merciful intercourse which we there see the holy God renewing with his fallen creature leads us forward into that glorious path which shone more and more unto the perfect day. The Bible delineates great characters—it shews us the faith of Abraham, the continence of Joseph, the meekness of Moses, and patience of Job, the zeal of Elijah, the fortitude of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The Bible unfolds the most extraordinary and interesting scenes—Here, an ark, inhabited by one family, and by every kind of terrestrial animals, floats over the deluged world. There, the mighty waters are divided, and become a wall on the right hand

and on the left, so that the children of Israel walk upon dry land in the midst of the sea. Yonder, mount Sinai blazes with the lightning, and is rocked by the thunders of a descending God. We accompany the chosen tribes, through the wilderness into Canaan, and there sojourn amidst prophets and priests, amidst ordinances and oracles, amidst signs and wonders. At last, God, who had spoken by his servants, speaks by his only-begotten Son. The son of God is manifested to interpret, to fulfil, and to save. By laying open the spirituality, extent, and excellence of the law, he acquaints us with our duty, our depravity, and our danger; by offering himself a sacrifice on the cross, he reconciles us to our Father who is in heaven; by promising the Holy Spirit, he excites confidence in the frail and fearful; by marking out the Christian's appointed course and prepared inheritance, he describes our obedience and animates it too.

"The Bible, as affecting merely the present state, is worthy of all acceptance. It prohibits those irregularities of passion and of appetite, by which so many are degraded and destroyed. It enforces by the most awful, and at the same time the most endearing motives, that conduct which makes individuals respectable, and communities harmonious and happy. It supplies the poor with reasons for contentment; and it urges the rich to abound in liberality. It directs the Sovereign to be just, ruling in the fear of God; and the Subject conscientiously to render tribute and honor. When cordially received, it triumphs over "pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy;" over "envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness." Breathing good-will to man, as well as declaring the grace and glory of God, it inspires at once with the benevolence that cheers this lower scene, and with the gratitude that rises into heaven, and offers welcome adorations there.

"Who that but glances at this imperfect sketch will refuse the Bible a place in his regards? What genuine believer will permit sophistry to divorce his affections, or to persuade him that the warmest affections be ever devoted to the object were commensurate to its worth? "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes, the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul, the judgments of the Lord are more to be desired than gold, yea than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the honey-comb; moreover by them is thy servant warmed, and in the keeping of them there is great reward. The words were found, and I did eat them, and they were the joy and rejoicing of my heart."

"That which it is good to receive it is glorious to bestow. To this conclusion point all the encomiums we have passed on the Bible; for the sake of it we thus venture before the Public. We are desirous to inculcate a practice overlooked by some, and which the most zealous will do well to maintain with augmented vigor. In one word, our sole aim in the address now before the reader is to promote a wider circulation of the Bible.

"We ground our appeal on the value of that book, and on the relation we bear to the whole human race. The value of the Bible may be inferred from the view already taken of it, but let it speak further for itself. "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.—As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.—The Spirit and the bride say, Come, and let him that heareth, say, Come, and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.—In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus—whom having not seen ye love, in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.—Wherefore be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

"Is this the language of the Bible, this a specimen of its character and encouragements?—It is folly then to neglect, and cruelty to monopolize it. The man, who in a season of drought renders a spring inaccessible, may be guilty of murder as well as the miscreant who infects it with poison. When the general welfare is at stake, indolence is brutality, and he, who does not strain every nerve, bids the victims around him to perish. The application is easy. Consulting the Bible, we see the refuge that shelters, and the fountain that refreshes. Shall we hide in that refuge, and drink of that fountain heedless of another's danger, and touched with no compassion for his distress? Impossible! He does not love the Bible, he never reached a single blessing from it, who neither imparts its truths, nor cares whether any one else does. Men at large are members of the same family, and each man should help his brethren. What a luxury is it to improve the opportunity! How sublime the career of a philanthropist! Let us run the whole length of it. While we relieve want, let us scatter the mists of ignorance; while we distribute the bread which perishes, let us recommend the immortal and immortalizing bread of heaven. That charity is infinitely defective which ministers nothing to the soul. We may

satisfy a fellow-creature with food, and cover him with raiment, yet leave him, in a dreadful sense, wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. Here, however, we must be permitted to enter our solemn protest against the conduct of those who, under the pretext of caring for a man's spiritual condition, leave his body to shiver, and pine, and starve. Sordid fanatics! what have they to do with a profession of christianity? Christianity inquires—"Who so hath this world's good, and seeth his brother hath need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him,—how dwelleth the love of God in him?" On the other hand, how little is it to strew comforts along a path which will soon terminate, if all the prospect beyond is shaded with uncertainty, or stretched into fiery desolation! When we tender a Bible, we act as the almoners of God's highest bounty; we invite to all the means of grace, and to the hope of glory; we aim, with the divine blessing, to exalt the receiver's heart towards heaven, if not rather to bring heaven down into the receiver's heart.

"Consider the spirit of the following passages—"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.—Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.—Freely ye have received, freely give. He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers that they should make them known to their children, that the generation to come might know them, even the children who should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children, that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.—These words which I command thee this day shall be in thy heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently to thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up, and thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thy hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes, and thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and upon thy gates.—O thou that bringest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain, O thou that bringest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid, say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God—Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

"Review the examples which the Bible holds up for our admiration. In early ages, the written standard of truth was small; in the primitive age, the divine will was communicated from man to man solely by the intervention of speech. But what the pious could accomplish, they did. Enoch prophesied; Noah was a preacher of righteousness; Abraham obtained from the Highest this testimony—"I know him that he will command his children, and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord;" Moses taught the thousands of Israel forty years; "Jehoshaphat sent to the princes and levites to teach in the cities of Judah, and they had the book of the law of the Lord with them, and went throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people; Josiah gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem, and went up into the house of the Lord with all the men of Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people both small and great, and there he read all the words of the book of the covenant."

"But in those days the Holy Scriptures comprehended a part only of the Old Testament. God has since put his hand a second, yet a third time to the work, and the Bible is now complete. The Old Testament is illustrated and confirmed by the New, predictions are brightened into accomplishment, we are led far into Jehovah's counsils, and see all the vapours of Judaism melting in the splendour of a more noble economy. These reflections place our obligations to circulate the Bible in so much the stronger light.

"To what extent have we regarded these obligations? Has the Bible been circulated (we say not, as far as is deemed desirable for that would be all over the world, but) as far as the influence of a grand christian-union might easily have reached? It will not be pretended. Millions of mankind never heard of the Bible, the Majority never saw it, and even in this land of Bibles (so Briton has to her honour been called) there are multitudes who do not possess a copy. Let the manufacturer ask among his workmen, the proprietor of a wide domain among his tenants, the minister of a parish, or separate congregation, among his hearers, No one that pursues this inquiry will doubt the fact. Were public notice to be given in any considerable district, that on a certain day every poor person, destitute of a Bible, and recommended as not likely to make an improper use of it, should receive one; who does not feel the persuasion that a crowd of applicants would justify the charitable summons? Is there a Christian in the habit of circulating Bibles, who is not obliged to refuse many a request, and to decline many more opportunities? We are aware that some cannot read, and that some who can, prefer almost any book to the Bible. But how large a proportion even of these are at least occasionally covered with by such as both read and rejoice in that blessed volume! One of this excellent class calls at a poor man's dwelling in the time of affliction; a member of the family has just expired, or languishes without the faintest prospect of recovery: the friendly visitant sees on the table or the shelf a

Bible; he turns first to one affecting passage, then to another; he reads a little, he speaks a little; and to the mourners it proves a word in season. That Bible might not have been opened in the family before; but now it comes into use, now the benevolence which placed it there is rewarded; and this is but one of those many occasions which have been improved to so good a purpose. Pain would we place a Bible in every cottage, give the inestimable treasure to each diligent child, and when our present becomes useless to the aged eye, indulge its possessor with a larger type and a fairer page. Is it a wonder that sin and wretchedness abound, where the law is not present to convince, nor the gospel to console? Can a person, with a Bible in his hand, the love of God in his heart, be comfortable, while he recollects that neighbour lives both without God and without the means of knowing him? Introduce the Bible, and you gain much. If he accept it, you make him your debtor, and thus engage his attention to your kind advice. You fix near him a witness against all iniquity. You set before him the evil and the good. You warn him to flee from the wrath to come. You direct him to the mercy of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Nor is the individual himself the only one to whom you may look for some fruit of your labour. Does the husband reject the gospel?—the wife may welcome it. Do the parents agree to walk still in darkness?—the children may read, and be allured into the light of life.

"But has not the public mind been diligently employed on the subject, and is not the present age peculiarly alive to its importance? We acknowledge it with pleasure. It is this delightful fact which gives confidence to our appeal. The many thousands of Bibles already circulated by various Societies do them honour, and claim our fervent wishes for their lasting prosperity. Together with the Bible they circulate, for the most part, several volumes and tracts intended to familiarize, vindicate, and enforce the principles of the Bible; nor can it be doubted that, in this way, the cause in which they are embarked has been materially assisted."

As another year has just expired, since the establishment of the CALCUTTA AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY, I think this a fit season for introducing the above extracts to the notice of the Public; and in conclusion, I beg to express a pious hope, that they may make the same impression on the mind of your Readers which they have made on that of

February 24, 1823.

BIBLIOPHILOS.

Remittances to England.

To the Editor of the *Bamby Courier*.

SIR, Not having been in the way for a long time of perusing Indian Journals, I cannot particularly refer to a Calcutta one, containing a well written and sensible appeal to the Supreme Government of India and the Honourable Court of Directors, on the enormous loss sustained by Officers in the India Service, in their indispensable remittances to England for the support of their families and children.

As nearly two years, I dare say, have elapsed since the generous endeavour of the author of the letter alluded to, and important tho' the matter be, as it seems to be sleeping, nevertheless, in the breasts of so many that are interested in it, I would, if consistent with the liberal laws that regulate your columns, solicit the favour of your inserting this, to stimulate the most able to the exercise of the talent that could be so worthily and humanely devoted to the construction of some feasible proposition. To him qualified for this task H. M. Regulations that obtain on Ceylon, where a large proportion of the military pay may be received in Government Debentures, will afford at once a perspicuous and simple parallel for the deduction of data, that knowledge and judgement will doubtless prove to our honourable rulers to be as possible in their application in India! and I would trust, not in any ratio bearing harder on their financial interests, than do enactments of the British Government on that Island. But in the contemplation of the magnitude of good from so benevolent an innovation, and the general diffusion of so much solid comfort in minds abroad and families at home, profit and loss vanish in reality, as in idea, in an individual's bosom overpowered by the predominating influences of humanity; and were the momentous case as ably and obviously expressed, as one may reckon it would be supported; in one heart and in one soul would be concentrated in due time, (it may be confidently predicted) the united sympathies and generous approbation of the angust body that so liberally presides over our destinies.

That this imperfect introduction may be accepted, and that it may prove an early excitement to some one negligent of a useful talent, and bemoaning agency, unfavourable exchange and lean and empty pockets, sine obolo, is the respectful request of

Sir, Your most Obedient Servant,

Poona, January 25, 1823.

Unmanly Conduct.

To the Editor of the *India Gazette*.

SIR, I beg to call your attention to the misconduct of several persons, (Europeans) who make a practice of not only insulting individuals who may be induced by a fine moon-light evening to walk out with their families, but they actually annoy them in their dwellings by throwing stones into the premises, and using the most infamous language.

Two nights since, as I was walking with my wife, (who is far advanced in pregnancy) near Wellington Square, two of these ruffians rushed suddenly against her, and if I had not supported her, she would have fallen to the ground. I did not pursue them, because I knew if I had, I could have had no assistance from the Police Poens, as it is seldom or ever the case, that they will come where a European is concerned, whether this arises from fear or otherwise I know not. Your insertion of this in your paper may be the means of deterring those mischievous persons from such wantonness in future.

I am, Sir, Your's respectfully,
AN INHABITANT.

Note.—We are sorry to hear our Countrymen can degrade themselves by such unmanly conduct.—ACTG. EDITOR.

Court of Requests.

To the Editor of the *Bengal Hurkaru*.

SIR, It is with feelings of surprise, that I have just this moment read in your Paper of this morning, a communication, bearing the signature of E. and pretending to comment on a case, with the merits of which he seems to be totally unacquainted. To set the matter in a clear point of view, it will be necessary for me to enter into a detail of the transaction, in which the present case originated. About eighteen months ago, Mr. Fleming, who had but a short time previously set up, to use a cant term, as a *Jack of all Trades*, was employed by Mr. Palmer to repair, besides other articles, a *Mehannah Palanqueen* belonging to him. As the defendant had had sufficient proofs of Mr. Fleming's dilatoriness in transactions of the nature here alluded to, he personally waited on Mr. F. and requested to know how long he would take to complete the repairs, which his Palanquin required: the latter, with his usual professional promptness, promised to return the equipage in less than a month, but the defendant having been disappointed by Mr. Fleming on a former occasion, (when the whole amount of the article commissioned by him had been paid in advance four months before he was put in actual possession of it) told Mr. Fleming, that as he apprehended the required repairs could not possibly be completed so soon as he seemed to promise, he would willingly extend the period to two months, at the same time giving Mr. Fleming to understand, that if he failed in his engagement, he would look to him for the indemnification of any expense, which Mr. P.—might, in consequence, be put to, if obliged to hire a conveyance for the purpose of enabling him to attend to his duties: to all this Mr. F. assented. At the expiration of eight months, however, the latter Gentleman had the assurance to send his bill to the former, who objected to discharge the amount, on the ground that his Palanqueen was still in Mr. Fleming's possession, and that during its detention no payment could legally be demanded of him. Two months after this occurrence, the Palanqueen in question was sent to Mr. Palmer, finished in a style which would have done very little credit, even to a professional native, but the defendant had not been put three weeks in possession of his property, before the bill was again brought to him for counter-signature, which Mr. Palmer declined to do, alleging that as Mr. P. had consumed ten months in completing his conveyance, it was unfair not to allow him even the usual credit. Mr. Palmer heard no more from Mr. F. for three or four days; at the end of which a *Summons*, was served on him by Mr. Fleming. On the morning of the day, on which the case was expected to be heard for decision, a mutual compromise was entered into by both parties, the Defendant having satisfied the Plaintiff by granting him a note of hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses (one of whom is a connection of Mr. F.) with a verbal stipulation, that when the promissory note became due, only half its amount should be paid in part liquidation of the debt, and the balance discharged subsequently, but at no specific period. The Defendant was not, however, aware, that any trick, equally conspicuous for its meanness as discreditable to the feelings of the party resorting to it, would subsequently be passed upon him. The note in question was endorsed over to Ramnarain Ghose for the obvious purpose of enforcing the payment of its full amount, without reference to the verbal agreement between Mr. Fleming and Mr. Palmer. The Native negotiator, without ever presenting the bill for payment, proceeded, three months after it fell due, to the summary mode of preferring a suit against the defendant, who declares upon his word of honor, that he had not even a glimpse of his promissory note from the day it was granted to the moment it was

produced at the Court house, with a view to prove the validity of the hand writing, which was admitted by the Defendant, who urged at the same time, that as he was taken by surprise, he hoped the Court would not saddle him with the costs; but decree the Plaintiff to discharge them. Sufficient evidence can yet be adduced, as to what the former stated before the Court, and to disprove the assertion of the scribe. It may be proper to mention in this place, that the defendant resides with a relation of his in Messrs. Kyds and Co's concern at Kidderpore, where it was hardly possible for the Plaintiff's scribe to be recognised among so large a number of people, as are daily employed there. It is true Mr. Palmer was confined by indisposition to his room in October last, but as his servants are in the habit of bringing papers of every description to him even in a state of sickness, had Ramnaraine Ghose really deputed his scribe to go with the note of hand to the Defendant's residence at Kidderpore, it is impossible but he must have seen it. It may be sufficient to declare solemnly and unequivocally, that this was far from being the case, as insinuated by your Correspondent E. Admitting for argument's sake, that the Plaintiff's scribe did actually and *bona fide* wait on the Defendant at the time he was confined through illness, it may be asked, what loss would the former have sustained by the delay of a few days, as payment could have been easily obtained on the Defendant's recovery? Another point to be noticed is, that, since the Summons was served on Mr. Palmer, while employed in the discharge of his official duties, payment of the promissory note could, with equal fairness and propriety have been demanded of him at his office. Why this was not done, it remains for the plodding faculty of the Plaintiff and the tenderness of Mr. Fleming to explain to the public?

I have gone into a lengthened detail, not so much to gratify a litigious, or vindictive spirit, as, (I repeat) to set the matter here commented upon in the clearest point of view possible, as well as to convince your Correspondent E. of the slender foundation upon which he has raised the superstructure of the cause he has advocated. On Mr. Fleming's conduct towards Mr. Palmer, I shall make no remarks, farther than that, few individuals of gentlemanly feelings will envy him the possession of such amiable qualities, as he has displayed in this transaction.—I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

A FRIEND OF THE DEFENDANT.

Calcutta, February 24, 1823.

Selections.

Mr. Buckingham.—The eminently learned Dr. Bryce, the head minister of the new Scotch Church, having accepted the situation of Clerk of the Stationary belonging to the Honorable Company, Mr. Buckingham the Editor of the JOURNAL, remarked directly as well as indirectly, that it was unbecoming the character of the minister to accept a situation like this; upon which, the Honorable the Governor General for the time being, in consideration of his disrespectful expression, passed an order, that Mr. Buckingham should leave India for England within the period of two months from the date of the receipt of this order, and that after the expiration of that period, he is not allowed to remain a single day in India. So I reflect upon the verse, which an elephant-keeper repeated on the banks of the Nile—

"If thou knowest the state of an ant under thy foot, thine own condition is such under the foot of an elephant!—*Mirat-ul-Ukhbar*."

Madras Courier, February 14, 1823.—The only Shipping arrivals that have occurred since Tuesday are from the Isles of France and Bourbon, are the *UNION* and *LA BUVARDINE*—they bring no news.

We have received no further information respecting *H. M. Ship ALLEGATOR*.

Madras Gazette, February 15, 1823.—We have to notice the arrival of the Ship *CATHERINE*, Captain *KNOX* from Calcutta.

The period for the sailing of the *CATHERINE* in prosecution of her voyage to England has not yet been fixed—She left Calcutta on the Evening of the 1st instant.

Passengers:—Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Burnes, G. Taylor, Esq., Doctor Burnes, Mr. L. Taylor, O. Taylor, and W. Larkins.

The Ship *YORK* has completed the reception of her homeward-bound Cargo, and will sail this evening or to-morrow morning.

Marriage.

At Cannanore, on the 6th ultimo, by the Reverend J. DUNTERVILLE, Lieutenant R. C. CUTTON, of the 3d Battalion of Pioneers, to Mrs. MARY SMYTH, relict of the late Captain SMYTH, of the 7th Native Infantry.

Births.

On the 29th ultimo, Mrs. J. HARRIS, of a Son.

At Howrah, on the 26th ultimo, Mrs. CLIFFE, of a Daughter.

Deaths.

At Kishengunge, on the 14th ultimo, GEORGE PHILLOTT, Esq. M. D. of the 23d Regiment of Native Infantry, aged 43 years, sincerely and deeply lamented by his brother Officers, and a large circle of friends.

Note to Correspondents.

The dispute between B—— and CIVIS, appearing to be now completely thread bare, we must decline inserting any more Letters on the subject. We should be sorry to see the fame of Lieut. White's invaluable Work obscured by an endless controversy about a single passage, which, at most, is only like a speck on the sun.

The ALARM alluded to by BOB SHORT is no where to be found but in the columns of the Alarmist, which may be indebted to the pen of an "Inspired Writer," but are neither Law nor Gospel.

John Bull's Presumption.

In our Paper of Thursday some hesitation was expressed whether JOHN BULL should be ranked among rational beings, since he had ceased to use the reasoning faculty, or whether he might not rather form the Link between the rational and irrational creation. This LINK he "presumes" is a BARON: how presumptuous! One grain of modesty might have suggested that nothing less was meant than Balaam's Interpreter. We shall leave his liberal sneers at our parentage to the good sense of his readers, who are we hope free from prejudices of that description as he himself professed to be only two days before:—Admirable Consistency!

Shipping Arrivals.

| CALCUTTA. | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | From Whence | Left |
| Feb. 28 | Esperanza | Porte. | A. J. Ferras | Penang | Feb. 9 |
| MADRAS. | | | | | |
| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | From Whence | Left |
| Feb. 13 | Catherine | British | W. Knox | Calcutta | Feb. 1 |

Shipping Departures.

| CALCUTTA. | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|
| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | Destination |
| Feb. 27 | Eliza | British | B. S. Woodhead | Isle of France |
| 27 | Thames | British | J. Litson | Penang |
| 27 | John Shore | British | J. J. R. Bowman | N. South Wales |
| MADRAS. | | | | |
| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | Destination |
| Feb. 12 | Edward Stretzell | British | R. Allport | Calcutta |

Stations of Vessels in the River.

CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 27, 1823.

At Diamond Harbour.—*PRINCESS CHARLOTTE*, proceeded down,—*EGENTIA*, outward bound, remains.

Kedgerie.—*FLORA*, proceeded down.

New Anchorage.—*H. C. Ships GENERAL HEWETT* and *THAMES*.

Saugor.—*LA SEINE*, (F.) gone to Sea,—*KUMBANG JATTIE*, (D.) below Saugor, outward bound, remains.

The *MANGLES*, arrived at Colvin's Ghant on Thursday, and the *CONFIANCA*, (P.), arrived at Calcutta on the same day.

The Ship *PRINCE OF ORANGE*, Captain J. Mouchet, for London direct, and the Ship *SIR EDWARD PAGET*, Captain J. Geary, for London and Cape, are expected to sail in two or three days.

Ships Advertised for Different Ports.

| Ships' Names. | Commanders. | Where Bound. | Probable time of Sailing. |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Resonance, | B. Fenn, | London, | All March |
| Mangles, | J. Cogill, | London, | Ditto |
| David Scott, | G. Bunyon, | { C. of Good Hope and London, .. } | 15th March |
| Exmouth, | G. Evans, | { Mauritius & London, .. } | All March |
| Ninerva, | — Bell, | London, | In a few days |
| Woodford, | Alfred Chapman, .. | London, | Ditto |
| Prince of Orange, .. | John Moncreiff, .. | London, | Ditto |
| Duc de Bordeaux, .. | — Moreau, | Bordeaux, | 10th March |
| Hero of Malown, .. | — Nash, | Eastward, | 15th March |